Journal

OF

TRAVELS

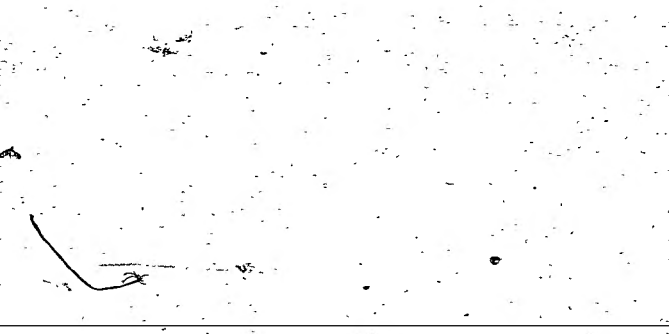
THROUGH

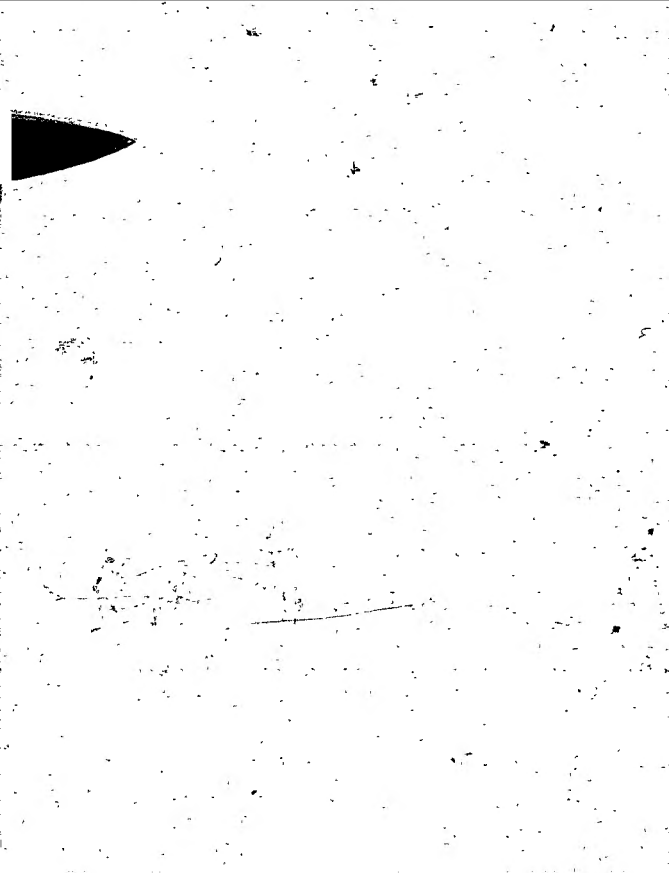
THE NORTH-WEST CONTINENT

OF

AMERICA.

[Price One Shilling.]





A

NARRATIVE,

OR

JOURNAL

OF

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS,

THROUGH

THE NORTH-WEST CONTINENT

OF

America;

IN

THE YEARS 1789 AND 1793,

BY

Mr. MACLAURIES.

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1802.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE

THROUGH THE

North-West Part of America,

PERFORMED IN 1789 AND 1793.

MR. Maclaurics embarked in a canoe on Wednesday the third of June 1789, at nine o'clock in the morning, at Fort Chepewyan, on the south side of the Lake of the hills, in latitude 58. 40 N. longitude 110. 30 W. the crew consisted of four Canadians, two of whom were attended by their wives and a German; they were accompanied also by an Indian, who had acquired the title of English chief, and his two wives, in a small canoe, with two young Indians, his followers, in in another small canoe. These men were engaged to serve in the double capacity of interpreters and hunters.

They were also accompanied by another canoe equipped for the purpose of trade. In this, which was assigned to the care of M. L'Heureux, one of the trading company's clerks, were shipped a stock of provisions, and a proper assortment of articles of merchandize as presents to procure a friendly reception among the Indians, as well as a proper supply of arms and ammunition.

They proceeded along one of the branches of the Lake, until they arrived in the Peace River, which at this spot is upwards of a mile broad, and here assumes the name of the Slave River. At the close of the next day they came at the mouth of the Dog River, at which station the river they were proceeding in, is two leagues in breadth. In their course along the Peace or Slave River, they met with several falls, at which they were obliged to carry the canoes and goods over land, till they had passed them. On the ninth of June they entered a small branch of the river on the east bank, after a serpentine course, through which after about ten

miles they arrived at the Slave Lake, when they found a great change in the weather, which was become extremely cold. The lake was covered with ice which did not seem to have given way, except near the shore. The gnats and musquitoes had been very troublesome during their passage along the river, but they did not venture to accompany them to this colder climate.

The banks of the river were covered with wood, but the ground was not thawed above a foot in depth, notwithstanding the leaf was at its full growth, while along the lake there was scarcely any appearance of verdure. The Indians informed them, that at a small distance from the river were extensive plains frequented by large herds of buffaloes, while the moose and rein deer kept possession of the woods. The beavers in great numbers build their habitations in the small lakes and rivers, and the mud banks in the river are covered with wild fowl, in vast abundance.

From thence they steered east along the banks of the lake, until they arrived at the houses built by Messrs. Grant and L'Heureux in 1785, where they landed, unloaded the canoes, and pitched their tents, and where they remained several days, being prevented from pursuing their course, by the ice. Here they obtained a quantity of fish, and some geese and ducks, as well as beavers.

A westerly wind having at length chased a passage, they embarked about sun set, on the 15th of June, and landed on a small island, about half past eleven P. M. at which time the atmosphere was sufficiently clear to admit of reading or writing without the aid of any other light. On the next day they again embarked, but were much impeded in their course for several days by the floating ice. They caught some fish, and the hunters killed a rein deer, and its fawn, and shortly afterwards five large and two small ones. On the 21st of June, Mr. Maclaurie found the latitude to be 61. 34 N. and on the 22d 61. 53 N. Though the weather

was

was far from being warm, they were tormented and their rest interrupted by whole hosts of musquitoes.

On the 23d of June they arrived at three lodges of the Red-Knife Indians,* of whom M. L'Heureux purchased upwards of eight packs of good beaver and marten skins. They could gain no information from these Indians, that was material to the expedition; but in order to save as much time as possible in circumnavigating the bays in the lake, Mr. Maclauries engaged one of the Indians as a guide, and purchased a large new canoe for him to embark in, along with two other young Indians. On the 25th of June the latitude was found to be 62. 24. N. Mr. Maclauries pointed out to the Indians the probability of an establishment being formed there, for the purposes of trade, at which they expressed great satisfaction, and pleasure.

The land hitherto on the borders of the lake had borne a barren aspect. It produced however great abundance of raspberries, gooseberries, cranberries, and other berries, and also the pathagomenan, which is something like a raspberry, and grows on a small stalk about a foot and a half high, in wet mossy spots. They now however found the land well covered with wood, consisting of trees of a large and spreading growth.

Landing on one of the islands in the lake, Mr. Maclauries was much surprized at observing that the greater part of the wood, with which it had been formerly covered, was cut down, leaving only the stumps. Upon enquiring the cause of this, he was informed by the English chief, that some of these Islands had been some winters before inhabited by many of the Slave Indians, who were however driven away by the Kinstenaux. They proceeded traversing the lake and its bays, but were still interrupted in their course by the floating ice. On the 26th of June, their latitude was 61. 40 N. The country seemed to be well stocked with moose and rein deers, and also with white partridges, which at

* So called from their using copper knives.

this season assume a grey color. The Indians killed a couple of Swans.

On the 29th of June they passed the point of the Long Island, where the Slave Lake discharges itself, and is ten miles in breadth. There is not more than from five to two fathom water here, so that when the lake is low, it is presumed, the greater part of the Channel must remain dry. They entered a river which turns to the westward, and which becomes gradually narrower for twenty-four miles, till it is not more than half a mile wide: the current however is then much stronger, and the soundings were three fathoms and a half. The land on the north shore is low and covered with woods; that to the south is much higher, and has also an abundance of trees. Both banks are covered with large quantities of burnt wood, lying on the ground, and young poplar trees, that have sprung up since the fire which destroyed the larger wood. It is a curious fact, that land, covered with Spruce, Pine and white Birch, should, when laid waste by fire, subsequently produce nothing but Poplars, although none of that species of tree were previously to be found there.

During their course along this river, an Indian picked up a wild goose which appeared to have been lately shot with an arrow, and was quite fresh. On the 1st of July, the river narrowed to about half a mile. The soundings were twelve fathom, and the current so strong that they could not clear it with eight paddles. They here lost their lead, and there was great quantities of ice along the banks of the river. Two days afterwards Mr. Maclaurie landed, accompanied by two men and Indians, and ascended an eminence where he was surprised to find an encampment. The Indians however informed him it was the custom of people who had no arms, to chuse these elevated spots for the places of their residence, as they could render them inaccessible to their enemies, particularly the Knisteneaux, of whom they are in continual dread. There were no trees to be seen

seen but the Pine and the Birch, which were small in size, and few in number. The current became so strong that it was at length in actual ebullition, and produced an hissing noise like a kettle of water in a moderate state of boiling.

On the 6th of July, the sun set at fifty-three minutes past nine, and rose the next morning at seven minutes before two: On the latter day, the river increased in breadth, and the current began to slacken. They saw smoke on the North Shore, which they made every exertion to approach. As they drew near they saw the natives running about in much apparent confusion, some were making to the woods, and others hurrying to their Canoes. Having landed the English chief and his young men, they endeavoured to dissipate their fears, in which they at length succeeded, and the fugitive Indians returned from their hiding places. There were five families, consisting of twenty-five or thirty persons, of two different tribes, the Slave and Dog-rib Indians, all of whom soon became very familiar on receiving presents of knives, beads, hatchets, and other articles.

The only information that could be procured from these Indians, relative to the course Mr. Maclauries and his party were pursuing, was of the wildest and most fabulous nature. It had the effect however of terrifying the Indians who attended the latter, whom it required some trouble to convince to the contrary. They however by desire of Mr. Maclauries persuaded one of these Indians to accompany them. These Indians are a lean, ugly, ill-made people, particularly about the legs; and many of them appeared in an unhealthy state, which may be attributed to their natural filthiness. They are of a moderate height, and as far as could be discovered, through the coat of dirt and grease that covered them, are of a fairer complexion than the generality of Indians, who are natives of warmer climates. Their clothing is made of the dressed

skins of the rein or moose deer, though more commonly of the former. Of these they prepare shirts, which reach to the middle of the thigh.

Their dwellings are of a very simple structure, consisting only of a few poles, supported by a fork, and forming a semicircle at the bottom, with some branches, or a piece of bark as a covering. They build two of these huts facing each other, and make the fire between them. The furniture agrees with the buildings; they have a few dishes of wood, bark, or horn; the vessels in which they cook their victuals are in the shape of a gourd, narrow at top, and wide at bottom, and made of watape fabricated in such a manner as to hold water, which is made to boil by putting a succession of red hot stones into it. The Watape is manufactured from the divided roots of the Spruce and Fir, which are wove with such a degree of compactness as to contain fluids. These vessels contain from two to six gallons. They make nets from three to forty fathoms in length, and from thirteen to thirty-six meshes in depth, of the fibres of willow bark; their lines are made of the sinews of the rein deer. Their arms and weapons for hunting are bows and arrows, spears, daggers and pojamajams, or clubs. The bows are about five or six feet in length, and the strings are of sinews or raw skins. The arrows are two feet and a half long, including the barb, which is variously formed of bone, horn, flint, iron, or copper, and are winged with three feathers. The pole of the spear is about six feet in length, and pointed with a barbed bone of ten inches; with this weapon they strike the rein deer in the water. The daggers are flat, and sharp pointed, about twelve inches long, and made of horn or bone. The pojamajam is made of the horn of the rein deer, the branches being all cut off, except that which forms the extremity. This instrument is about two feet in length, and is employed to dispatch their enemies in battle, and such animals as they catch in snares planned for that purpose. These are about

three

three fathoms long, and are made of the green skin of the rein or moose deer, but in such small stripes that it requires from ten to thirty strands to make this cord, which is not thicker than a cod-line, and yet is strong enough to resist any animal that can be entangled in it. Snares or nooses are also made of sinews, to take the lesser animals, such as hares and white partridges, which are very numerous. Their axes are manufactured of a piece of brown or grey stone, from six to eight inches long, and two inches thick. The inside is flat, and the outside round and tapering to an edge, an inch wide; they are fastened by the middle with the flat side inwards to an handle, two feet long, with a cord of green skin. This is the tool with which they split their wood, and the only one we saw with them. They kindle fire by striking together a piece of white and yellow pyrites and a flint stone over a piece of touchwood. They are universally provided with a small bag, containing these materials, so that they are in a continual state of preparation to produce fire. From the adjoining tribes, the Red Knives and Chepewyans, they procure, in barter for marten skins, and a few beaver, small pieces of iron, of which they manufacture knives, by fixing them at the end of a short stick, and with them and the beaver's teeth they finish all their work.

Their canoes are small, pointed at both ends, flat bottomed and covered in the fore part. They are made of the bark of the birch tree, and fir wood, but of so slight a construction, that the man, whom one of these light vessels bears on the water, can in return carry it over land without any difficulty. It is very seldom that more than one embarks in them, nor are they capable of receiving more than two. The paddles are six feet long, one half of which is occupied by a blade about eight inches wide.

Mr. Maclauries and his party pursued their course, and passed the Great Bear Lake River, which is of considerable depth, and an hundred yards wide; its water is clear and has the greenish hue of the sea. On the 7th. of

7th. of July they landed at an encampment of four fires, all the inhabitants of which ran off with the utmost speed, except an old man and an old woman. Their guide called aloud to the fugitives, and entreated them to return, but without effect; the old man however did not hesitate to approach, and represented himself as too far advanced in life, and too indifferent about the short time he had to remain in the world, to be very anxious about escaping any danger that threatened him; at the same time he pulled his grey hairs from his head by handfuls, to distribute among them, and implored their favor for himself and his relations. The fugitives were at length persuaded to return, and were easily reconciled by presents of beads, knives, &c. They differed in no respect from those that were last seen. The guide who had been taken from the Slave and Dog-Rib Indians, became here so anxious to return home, that we were under the necessity of forcing him to embark.

In their course along the river, they met with several other tribes of Indians, differing little from those before seen, to whom they also made presents, and received provisions in return. One encampment however they were informed, belonged to a tribe called the Hare-Indians, hares and fish being their principal support. There were twenty-five in number; one woman amongst them was afflicted with an abscess, and reduced in consequence to a mere skeleton, whilst several old women were singing and howling around her. They were here under the necessity of exchanging their guide, who had become so troublesome, that they were obliged to watch him night and day, except he was on the water. Here most of the Indians whom they had met with, had some wonderful stories to relate of the dangers they were likely to meet with in their further progress.

The next night, their guide deserted, they therefore compelled another to supply his place, whom they succeeded

ceeded in conciliating. In a short time they found another horde of Indians, consisting of fifteen, of a more pleasing appearance than any they had hitherto seen, being healthy, full of flesh, and clean in themselves. These Indians differed but little in disposition from those hitherto seen; they purchased from them a couple of very large moose skins, which were very well dressed; and were presented by them with a most delicious fish, which was less than a herring, and very beautifully spotted with black and yellow. They here prevailed on a native, whose language was most intelligible, to accompany them. As they pushed off, some of the men discharged their fowling pieces, by which the new guide and the rest of the Indians, were much alarmed, never having heard before the discharge of fire arms: being informed however that the noise was only a signal of friendship, they became pacified, and the new guide was persuaded to embark.

They met soon afterwards with five families, consisting of about forty men, women and children, who were called the Deguthee Diners, or the Quarreters. Their guide, like his predecessors, now manifested a wish to leave them, but being assured they should return the same way, he consented to reimbark without any further persuasion.

On the 10th of July, they arrived at a part of the river where several channels appeared, and they were at a loss which to take. The guide preferred the easternmost, because he thought it would lead them away from the Esquimaux, of whom he was afraid; but Mr. Maclauries determined to take the middle channel, as it appeared to be a larger body of water, and running north and south, considering at the same time, that they could always go to the eastward if it should appear preferable. On the same day he found the latitude to be 67. 47 N.

Their new conductor being very much disheartened and quite tired of his situation, used his influence to prevent

prevent their proceeding. The party also became so discouraged from the accounts they had heard, and from various other circumstances, that there was every reason to believe they would have deserted if it had been in their power. Mr. Maclauries however satisfied them in some degree, by the assurance that he would proceed onwards but seven days more, and if he did not then reach the sea he would return.

On the 11th, Mr. Maclauries sat up all night to observe the sun. At half past twelve, he called up one of the men to view a spectacle, which he had never before seen, who on seeing the sun so high, thought it was a signal to embark, and began to call his companions, who could scarcely be persuaded that the sun had not descended nearer to the horizon, and that it was then but a short time past midnight.

In the course of the day they landed, where there were three houses or rather huts belonging to the natives. The ground plot was of an oval form about fifteen feet long, ten feet wide in the middle, and eight feet at either end; the whole of it was dry about twelve inches below the surface of the ground, and one half of it was covered over with willow branches, which probably serve as a bed for the whole family. A space in the middle of the other part of about four feet wide was deepened twelve inches more; and was the only spot in the house where a grown person could stand upright. The door or entrance is in the middle of one end of the house, and is about two foot and a half high, and two feet wide; and has a covered way or porch five feet in length, so that it is absolutely necessary to creep on all fours in order to get in or out of this curious habitation; there is a hole of about eighteen inches square on the top of it, which serves the three-fold purpose of a window, an occasional door, and a chimney.

The discontent of the hunters became renewed, in consequence of the account given them by the guide of that part of the voyage which was approaching. Mr.

Maclauries

Maclauries however to reconcile the English chief to a necessary continuance in the service, presented him with a capot or travelling coat; and to keep the guide in good humour, he gave him a skin of a moose deer, which in the opinion of the latter was a valuable present.

On the 12th of July they landed, and found the adjacent land covered with short grass and flowers, though the earth was not thawed above four inches from the surface, beneath which was a solid body of ice. This beautiful appearance however was strangely contrasted with the ice and snow, that were seen in the valleys. There were some huts near the spot, and several household articles, which indicated that some natives had lately resided there. Amongst other things they discovered a square stone kettle with a flat bottom, which was capable of containing two gallons, and were much puzzled to know the means by which it had been chisselled out of a solid rock into that form.

When they reembarked they were at a loss what course to take, having arrived at a lake, and the guide appeared as ignorant as themselves. Mr Maclauries found the latitude to be 69. 1 N. The lake was quite open to the westward, but the water extremely shallow. They proceeded to an Island, where they arrived at five o'clock on the 12th in their course to which they found five feet to be the deepest water. The lake now appeared covered with ice for about two leagues distance, and no land a-head, so that they were prevented from proceeding in this direction by the ice, and the shallowness of the water along the shore. Having ascended to the highest point of the Island, Mr. Maclauries discovered the solid ice extending from the south-west by compass to the eastward. As far as the eye could see to the south-west he could dimly perceive a chain of mountains stretching further to the north than the edge of the ice, at the distance of upwards of twenty leagues. His people could not refrain from

from expressions of real concern that they were obliged to return without reaching the sea, an object, the hope of attaining which, had encouraged them to bear without murmuring the hardships of the expedition. They however declared their readiness to follow him wherever he should be pleased to lead them.

On the 13th their latitude was found to be 69. 14 N. longitude 135 W. In the afternoon Mr. Maclauries reascended the hill, but could not discover that the ice had been put in motion by the force of the wind. It was now become necessary to obtain as much provision as possible, their stores being reduced to about five hundred weight, which without any other supply, would not have sufficed for fifteen people above twelve days.

About eight the next morning, one of the men saw a great many animals in the water, which he at first supposed to be peices of ice. Mr. Maclauries however being awakened about nine immediately discovered that they were whales, and having ordered the canoe to be prepared they embarked in pursuit of them. They failed however in their attempt, the foggy weather preventing them from continuing the pursuit.

The fog having dispersed about twelve, they embarked again for the purpose of taking a view of the ice. The return of the fog however prevented them from proceeding, and a sudden squall from the N. E. placed them in imminent danger, as from the violence of the swell it was only by a great exertion that two men could bale out the water from the canoe. At eight they encamped on the eastern end of the island, which Mr. Maclauries named Whole island. It is about seven leagues in length from east to west, but not more than half a mile in breadth. They saw several red foxes, one of which was killed. Here Mr. Maclauries ordered a post to be erected close to their tents, on which he engraved the latitude of the place, his own name, the number of persons he had with him, and the time they remained there.

The

The tide here appeared to rise sixteen or eighteen inches. They obtained a very few geese and cranes, and a very small quantity of fish. Great numbers of wild fowl were seen with their young ones, but they were so shy that they could not be approached. They discovered here the first spruce tree they had seen for some time; it is considered indeed as extraordinary that any wood whatever should grow in this part of the world, as the ground never thaws above five inches from the surface. The course of the river divided into innumerable streams, and meandering through islands, some of which being covered with wood and others with grass, formed a delightful view. The mountains that formed the opposite horizon were at the distance of forty miles. The inland view was neither so extensive nor agreeable, being terminated by a near range of bleak barren hills, between which are small lakes or ponds, while the surrounding country is covered with tufts of moss, without the shade of a single tree.

They took their departure at three o'clock in the morning, on the 18th. In the course of the day the hunters killed two rein deers, which were the only large animals they had seen since they had been in the river, and which proved a very seasonable supply, as their Pemmican had become mouldy some time before, although that in that situation they were under the necessity of eating it. The Indian killed also eight geese.

On the morning of the 19th, they discovered that their conductor had escaped, he had left the moon skin which Mr. Maclauries gave him for a covering, and gone off in his shirt though the weather was very cold. They could not discover any reason for his conduct, except that he had expressed his apprehensions of being taken away as a slave. In the afternoon they saw large flights of geese with their young ones, and the hunters killed twenty-two of them.

On the 21st, they left the channel formed by the Islands for the uninterrupted channel of the river, where

they found the currrent so strong that it was absolutely necessary to tow the canoe with a line. At half past eight they landed on the same spot, where they had before encamped on the 9th, where they were soon after joined by eleven of the natives, amongst whom was the brother of him who had accompanied Mr. Maclauries and his party as a guide. This man was eager in his enquiries after his absent brother, and was not satisfied with the information he received from Mr. Maclauries and his party. The people of the latter having placed their kettle of meat on the fire, Mr. Maclauries was obliged to guard it from the natives who made several attempts to possess themselves of its contents, which was the only instance he had hitherto discovered of their being influenced by a pilfering disposition. Mr. Maclauries saw the sun set, for the first time since he had been here before.

These natives had large huts built with drift wood on the declivity of the beach, and in the inside the earth was dug away so as to form a level floor. At each end was a stout fork, whereon was laid a strong ridge pole which formed a support to the whole structure, and a covering of spruce bark preserved it from the rain. Various spars of different heights were fixed within the hut and covered with split fish that hang on them to dry, and fires were made in different parts to accelerate the operation. There were rails also on the outside of the building which were hung around with fish, but in a fresher state than those within. The spawn is also carefully preserved and dried in the same manner. Mr. Maclauries obtained as many fish from them as the canoe could conveniently contain, and some strings of beads were the price paid for them, an article which they preferred to every other. Iron they held in little or no estimation.

They belong to a numerous tribe, with whom the Esquimaux had been continually at variance, and though the latter had promised friendship, they had just

just before in the most treacherous manner butchered some of the people. The latter therefore declared their determination to withdraw all confidence in future from the Equimaux, and to collect themselves in a formidable body that they might be enabled to revenge the death of their friends.

Rein deer, bears, wolvereens, martins, foxes, hares and white buffaloes, are, according to the natives, the only quadrupeds in their country, and the latter were only to be found in the mountains to the westward. The banks of the river were well covered with small wood, spruce, fir, birch and willow.

On the 24th, they continued their course, but were again under the necessity of using the tow line, the stream being so strong as to render all their attempts to stem it with the paddles, unavailing. At noon they observed a lodge on the side of the river, and its inhabitants hurrying in great confusion to the woods. Three men only waited their arrival, who however refused to have any communication with them until Mr. Maclaurries appeared with a present of beads. The Indians had at first taken them for Esquimaux, and were still suspicious of their designs. These people had been here but a short time, and their lodge was not yet completed, nor had they any fish in a state of preparation for their provision. They took care to conceal their women and the greater part of their effects in the woods.

The weather became very sultry on the 25th, but the current had relaxed of its force, so that the paddle was sufficient for their progress during the greater part of the day. The inland part of the country is mountainous, and the banks of the river low but covered with wood, amongst which was the poplar but of small growth, and the first they had seen on their return. A pigeon also flew by them, and hares appeared to be in great plenty. They passed many Indian encampments, which they did not see in their

passage down the river. About seven, the sky, to the westward, became of a steel-blue color with lightning and thunder. They landed to prepare against the coming storm, but before they could erect their tents it came on with the greatest violence. The ridge pole of Mr. Maclaurie's lodge, which was nine inches and a half in circumference, was broken in in the middle; and they were obliged to throw themselves flat on the ground to escape being wounded by the stones that were hurled about in the air like sand. The violence of the storm however subsided in a short time.

Proceeding in their course, the next morning they landed about eight, at three large Indian lodges, the inhabitants of which were asleep, and expressed uncommon alarm and apprehension, when awakened by them, although they had seen them before. Their habitations were crowded with fish, hanging to dry; but as Mr. Maclauries's party wanted some for his private use, they sent the Indian young men to visit the nets, who returned with abundance of large white fish, to which the name has been given of Poison Inconnu, some of a round shape and green color, and a few white ones, all which were very agreeable food. Shortly afterwards, pursuing their course, they passed a river of some extensive appearance, flowing from the eastward, which was called by one of the natives who followed them, the Winter Road River.

On the 27th they landed at several lodges of Indians, from whom they endeavoured to gain some information relative to the circumjacent country, but what they could glean in this way was either so confined or hyperbolical, as to be of little use to them. They however gained from these people a plentiful supply of fish, dry as well as fresh, and as many whortle berries as they chose, for which they paid with the usual articles of beads, awls, knives and tin. About sun set Mr. Maclauries was under the necessity of shooting one of the dogs,

dogs, as those animals could not be kept from the baggage: this incident caused a general alarm, and the women took their children on their backs and ran into the woods. Mr. Maclauries ordered the cause of this act of severity to be explained, with an assurance that no injury would be offered to themselves. The woman however, to whom the dog belonged, was very much grieved and declared that the loss of five children during the preceding winter, had not affected her so much as the death of this dog, but her grief was not of long duration, and a few beads, &c. soon assuaged her sorrow.

On the upper part of the beach liquorice grew in great abundance, and was then in blossom. Mr. Maclauries pulled up some of the roots which were large and long, but the natives were ignorant of its qualities, and considered it as a weed of no use or value.

They landed again on the 28th, where there were two lodges full of fish, but no inhabitants. The Indians, with Mr. Macklauries, in rummaging this place, found several articles which they proposed to take, for the purchase of which, he ordered beads and awls to be left, an act of justice which they could not comprehend, as the owners were not present. A few hours afterwards they landed at a fire, where were some young Indians who had been hunting geese. Out of two hundred geese they picked thirty-six which were eatable, the rest were putrid and emitted a horrid stench; they had been killed some time without having been gutted, and in this state of loathsome rottenness there was every reason to suppose they are eaten by the natives. They departed, and encamped again at eight, and at nine a violent storm came on, accompanied by a heavy rain, their tents were blown down, and their canoe was in imminent danger. The storm lasted two hours, and deluged them with wet.

The weather, the heat of which had been before insupportable, was so cold on the next day that they

could not put on clothes enough to keep them warm. On the 1st of August they met with another encampment, but only saw one family who had but few fish. This was the first night since their departure from Alabasca, when it was sufficiently dark to render the stars visible. The next day they were obliged to tow the canoe, and Mr. Maclauries walked along the bank of the river; in his way he observed several small springs of mineral water, running from the foot of the mountains, and on the beach he saw several lumps of iron ore.

When they came to the river of the Bear Lake, Mr. Maclauries ordered one of the young Indians to wait for his canoe, and he took his place in their small one. This river is about two hundred and fifty yards broad at that place, the water clear and of a greenish color. They landed on the opposite shore, and continued walking till five in the afternoon, when they saw several smokes along the shore. Considering these as certain indications that they should meet with some of the natives, they quickened their pace, but in their progress experienced a very sulphureous smell, and at length discovered that the whole bank was on fire for a very considerable distance. It proved to be a coal mine, to which the fire had communicated from an old Indian encampment. The beach was covered with coals, and the English chief gathered some of the softest he could find, as a black dye, it being the puneral, as he said, which was used by the natives to render their quills black.

As they proceeded on a long river, they saw not the least appearance of snow, though the mountains had been covered with it when they passed before. They found the water much fallen, and discovered many shoals which were not before visible. They killed several geese of a larger size than those they had generally seen. On the 4th of August the weather became again extremely warm. Numerous tracks of

of rein deer appeared on the sides of the river. The current was very strong. They set their nets, but on raising them next day, they had not the good fortune to take a single fish. The weather then turned so cold that the most violent exercise could scarce keep them warm. The women, who did not quit the canoe, were continually employed in making shoes of moose-skin for the men, as a pair did not last more than a day. On the 7th of August, they killed a female rein-deer, whose udder was full of milk, which one of the young Indians poured among some boiled corn, and ate the whole with great delight, esteeming it a very delicious food.

On the 9th, they perceived various places where the natives had made their fires; for there people reside but a short time near the river, and remove from one bank to another, as it suits their purposes. They landed on the 10th; and Mr. Maclauries also, accompanied by one of the young Indians, endeavoured to reach one of the mountains, which were in sight, and which were the last on the South-west side of the river, but after experiencing considerable fatigue, he was compelled through the unfavourable nature of the ground, to relinquish his object. He discovered much wood in the course of this expedition, chiefly consisting of spruce firs intermixed with white birch and poplar, which were the largest and tallest of their kind he had ever seen.

Proceeding in their voyage, on the 12th, they dispatched the two young Indians across the river, that they might not miss any of the natives that should be on the banks of it. They saw many places where fires had been lately made along the beach, as well as fire running in the woods. The tracts of the Indians were observable in many places, and they penetrated several miles into woods in search of them, but without success. The fire had spread all over the country, and had burned about three inches of the black

black light soil, which covered a body of cold clay that was so hard as not to receive the least impression from their feet.

The next day Mr. Maclauries had a quarrel with the English chief, with whose conduct he had for some time been dissatisfied; in consequence of which, the latter declared his intention of not proceeding any farther in company. Mr. Maclauries however, not being able to do well without him, and his followers, was at length obliged to soothe him, and with some difficulty persuaded him to alter his resolutions, but shortly after he became perfectly reconciled. On the 1st, they went about two miles up the river of the mountains. Fire was on the ground on each side of it. This river flows in a separate stream, along the great river, and the waters do not become incorporated for a considerable distance, until they arrive at the eastern rapid. They found plenty of berries, which the people called Poirer, they are of a purple hue, somewhat bigger than a pea, and of a luscious taste; there were also gooseberries and a few strawberries.

On the 17th, they overtook the young Indians, whom they had dispatched the preceding night for the purpose of hunting, and who had killed five young swans, whilst the English chief presented them with an eagle, three cranes, a small beaver, and two geese. On the 18th Mr. Maclauries found the latitude to be 61. 33 N. They observed an extraordinary circumstance in this river, that its waters had the quality of speedily corroding wood, as they found from the destructive effect it had on the paddles.

On the 23d, they entered the Slave lake, by the same channel through which they had passed from it. The South-West side would have been the shortest, but they were not certain of there being plenty of fish along the coast, and they were sure of finding abundance of them in the course they proposed. They paddled a long way into a deep bay, to get the wind,

wind, and having left their mast behind them, they landed to cut another. They then hoisted sail, and were driven on at a great rate; at twelve the wind and swell were so much augmented, that their under yard broke, but luckily the mast thwart resisted, till they had time to fasten down the yard with a pole, without lowering sail. They took in a large quantity of water, but had the mast given way, they would in all probability have filled, and sunk. Two men were continually employed in baling out the water, which they took in all sides. They fortunately however doubled a point that secured them from the wind and swell, and encamped for the night in order to wait for the Indians whom they had previously sent on a hunting expedition. At noon, on the 25th, the latitude was found to be 61. 29 N.

The English chief and his people being quite exhausted with fatigue, he expressed his desire on the morning of the 27th, to remain behind, in order to proceed to the country of the Beaver Indians, engaging at the same time to return to Athabasca, in the course of the winter. The next evening however, Mr. Maclauries and his party having proceeded a short distance, the English chief presented himself before them drenched with wet, and in much confusion informed Mr. Maclauries, that his canoe had been broken to pieces, and that they had lost their fowling pieces: This party soon came up, and the whole again joined Mr. Maclauries.

They arrived at Mr. L'Heureux's house on the 30th, at two in the afternoon. It was late before Mr. L'Heureux, and the Indians arrived, when according to a promise, which Mr. Maclauries had made the latter, he gave them a plentiful equipment of iron ware, ammunition, tabacco, &c. as a recompence for the toil and inconveniencies they had sustained. Mr. Maclauries proposed to the English chief to proceed to the country of the Beaver Indians, and bring them

to

to dispose of their peltries to Mr. L'Heureux, whom he intended to have there the ensuing winter. The English chief had engaged to be at Athabassa in the ensuing month of March, with plenty of furs.

Mr. Maclauries set up all night on the 31st, to make the necessary arrangement, for the embarkation in the morning, and to prepare instructions for Mr. L'Heureux. They obtained some provisions there, and parted from him at five, in fine calm weather. The latitude shortly afterwards was found to be 62. 15 N. and on the 2d of September, 62. 31 N. They proceeded in their course until the 7th; they ran the canoe on a stump, by which it filled with water, before it could be got to land, and required the employment of two hours to repair it. The next day, at three in the afternoon, they came to the first carrying place, Portage des Koyés, and encamped at the upper end of it, to dry their cloathes, some of which were almost spoiled.

The canoe and baggage were on the 9th, carried over the two carrying places, called the Portage des Chetique, and the Portage de la Montagne, after having passed which, they incamped at the Dog River, at half past four in the afternoon, in a state of great fatigue. At half past five in the morning they continued their course, and met with frequent showers of rain and hail in the forenoon; and in the afternoon two showers of snow. At six in the evening, they landed at a lodge of Knisteneaux, consisting of three men and five women, and children, who had separated from the rest of their party, in the enemy's country, out of absolute hunger. They were entirely ignorant of the fate of their friends, but imagined they had returned to the Peace River, or had perished for want of food. Mr. Maclauries supplied them with a few articles, of which they were in want, and himself and his party continued their course the next morning. During the night it had frozen very hard.

On

On the 12th, about three in the afternoon, they arrived at Chepewyan Fort, from whence they had originally took their departure, and thus concluded their first voyage, which had occupied no less than one hundred and two days in the performance.

End of the first Voyage.

VOYAGE II.

MR. Maclauries again took his departure after making every necessary preparation, from Fort Chepewyan on the 10th of October 1792, for the purpose of proceeding up the Peace River. He resolved to go as far as the most distant settlement, which would occupy the remaining part of the season, it being the route by which he proposed to attempt his next discovery across the mountains from the source of that river.

In consequence of this design, he left the establishment of Fort Chepewyan in charge of Mr. Roderic Maclauries, accompanied by two canoes, laden with the necessary articles for trade. They steered west for one of the branches that communicates with the Peace River, called the Pine River, and at seven in the morning of the 12th entered the Peace River.

On the 13th, at noon, they arrived at Peace Point, from which, according to the report of the interpreter, the river derived its name, it being the spot where the Knisteneaux and Beaver Indians settled their dispute, and which was agreed to be the boundary of the two tribes.

They arrived at the falls on the 17th; the river at this place is about four hundred yards broad, and the fall about twenty feet high. The weather was very cold, and snow fell during the night, several inches deep. They passed the Loon River, and came along side the Grand Isle; and as it froze very hard, they used much expedition,

expedition, and landed at the old establishment about three in the morning of the 19th.

The country through which they had passed is low from the entrance of the river to the falls, and with the exception of a few open parts covered with grass, it is cloathed with wood: where the banks are very low the soil is good, being composed of the sediment of the river, and putrified leaves and vegetables: where they are more elevated, they display a face of yellowish clay, mixed with small stones.

They landed at the establishment at Athabasca, at six o'clock in the morning of the 20th, amidst the rejoicing and firing of the people, who were animated by the prospect of again indulging themselves in the luxury of rum, of which they had been deprived since the beginning of May, it being the practice throughout the north west, neither to sell or give any rum to the natives during the summer. Mr. Maclauries called them together, to the number of forty-two, hunters or men able to bear arms, to confer with them, and strengthened his advice, by a nine gallon cask of reduced rum, and a quantity of tobacco. The number of people belonging to this establishment amounted to about three hundred, of whom sixty were hunters. Although appearing from their language to be of the same stock as the Chepewyans, they have adopted the manners and customs of their former enemies the Knisteneaux.

They pursued their course till they arrived at the foot of the river, when taking the western branch, they landed on the first of November, at the place which was designed to be their winter residence. The weather had indeed become so cold and disagreeable, that Mr. Maclauries was more than once apprehensive of being stopped by the ice; and it required the utmost exertions of the men to prevent it: nor were their labors at an end, for there was not a single hut to receive them. They found two men, who had been sent

sent forward the preceding spring, to square timber, for the erection of a house, and with them the principal chief of the place, and about seventy men, who had been anxiously waiting the arrival of Mr. Maclauries and his party, and received them with every mark of satisfaction and regard which they could express.

In addition to the wood which flourished below the fall, these banks produce the cypress tree, arrow wood, and thorn. Opposite to their present situation were beautiful meadows, with various animals grazing on them, and groves of poplars irregularly scattered over them.

Mr. Maclauries assembled the Indians, and promised to treat them with kindness, if their behavior deserved it, but at the same time, with equal severity, if they failed in those returns, which he had a right to expect from them. He then gave them some rum and tobacco, and they departed after making the fairest promises. The men who had been employed for that purpose, having collected an ample quantity of materials, all hands were set to work on the 7th, to construct the fort, build the house, and form store houses. The river was completely frozen over by the 22nd, and a clear passage was obtained over it for the hunters, who now procured plenty of fresh meat. The frost was so severe on the 27th, that the axes of the workmen became almost as brittle as glass.

These natives had not the least acquaintance with the medical art, or the healing virtues of any herb or plant, and Mr. Maclauries was forced to be physician and surgeon. One of them was suddenly attacked whilst at work in the woods, with a pain in his thumb, which disabled him from holding the axe. On examining him, there was found a narrow red stripe, about half an inch wide, from his thumb to his shoulder; the pain was violent, accompanied by chilness and shivering. The next day the stripe encreased, and was accompanied by several blotches

on his body, and pains in his stomach. Mr. Maclauries at a loss what to do, at length took some blood from him, the man obtained rest, and in a short time he gained his former health and activity.

Mr. Maclauries was very much surprized, whilst walking in the woods, at such a season of the year, to be saluted with the singing of birds, while they seemed by their vivacity to be actuated by the invigorating power of a more genial season. Some of them were very beautiful.

On the 23rd of December, Mr. Maclauries removed into the house that had been erected for him, and set the men to begin the buildings, intended for their own habitations. Materials sufficient to erect five houses, of seventeen feet by twelve, were already collected. On the 29th, the wind being N. E. and the weather calm and cloudy, a rumbling noise was heard in the air, like distant thunder, when the sky cleared away, in the south west, from whence there blew a perfect hurricane, which lasted till eight. Soon after it commenced, the atmosphere became so warm, that it dissolved all the snow upon the ground, where the ice was covered with water, and had the same appearance as when it is breaking up in the spring. From eight to nine, the weather became calm, but immediately after a wind arose from the N. E. with equal violence, with clouds, rain and hail, which continued throughout the night, and till the evening of the next day, when it turned to snow.

The people who were with Mr. Maclauries awoke him on the 1st of January, at the break of day, by the discharge of fire arms, with which they congratulated the appearance of the year. In return, they were treated with plenty of spirits and cakes.

There being several of the natives at the house, on the 5th, one of them who had received an account of the death of his father, proceeeded in silence to his house, and began to fire off his gun. As it was night,

night, and such a noise being uncommon at such an hour, especially when so often repeated, Mr. Maclauries sent his interpreter to enquire into the cause of it, who was informed by the man himself that this was a common custom with them, on the death of a near relation, and was a warning to their friends not to approach or intrude upon them, as they were, in consequence of this loss, become careless of life. The chief to whom the deceased person was also related, appeared with his war cap on his head, which is only worn on their solemn occasions, or when preparing for battle, and confirmed to Mr. Maclauries, this singular custom of firing guns, in order to express their grief for the death of relations and friends. The women alone indulge in tears on such occasions, the men considering it as a mark of pusillanimity, and a want of fortitude, to betray any personal tokens of sensibility or sorrow.

The natives brought Mr. Maclauries plenty of furs. The small quantity of snow st this time (10th, January) was particularly favourable for hunting the beaver, as from this circumstance those animals could with the greater facilty, be taken from their lodges to their lurking places. Two days afterwards, a dispute arose between two young Indians, who were playing at one of their games, in consequence of which, they at length drew their knives, and if Mr. Maclauries had not happened to have appeared, serious consequences would have ensued. The game which produced this dispute, is called that of the Platter, and is played in the following manner: The instrument of it consist of a platter or dish, made of wood, and six round or square, but flat, pieces of metal, wood or stone, whose sides or surfaces are of different colours. These are put into the dish, and after being for some time shaken together, are thrown into the air, and received again in the dish, with considerable dexterity; when by the number that are turned up of the same mark or colour, the game is regulated.

If there should be equal numbers, the throw is not reckoned; if two or four, the platter changes hands.

The weather continued mild until the latter end of January, when it began to be severe, and on the 2d of February it froze so hard in the night that Mr. Maclauries's watch stopped, a circumstance that had never happened to it since its owner had resided in the country. This frost continued till the 16th of March, when the wind blowing from the S. W. the weather became mild. On the 22d a wolf was so bold as to venture among the Indian lodges, and was very near carying off a child. On the 13th some geese were seen, and these birds are always considered as the harbingers of spring. On the 1st of April the hunters shot five of them. This was a much earlier period than Mr. Maclauries ever remembered to have received the visit of wild fowl in this part of the world. On the 5th the snow had entirely disappeared.

The Beaver and Rocky Mountain Indians, who traded with them in this river, did not exceed one hundred and fifty men capable of bearing arms, two thirds of whom call themselves Beaver Indians. The latter differ only from the former, as they have more or less imbibed the customs and manners of the Knisteneaux. They are passionately fond of liquor, and in the moments of their festivity will barter any thing they have in their possession for it.

Though the Beaver Indians made their peace with the Knisteneaux at Peace Point, yet they did not secure a state of amity from others of the same nation, who had driven away the natives of the Sarkatchuvine and Missiniwy Rivers, and joined at the head water of the latter, called the Beaver River; from thence they proceeded west by the Slave Lake before described, on their war excursions, which they often repeated, until the Beaver Indians had procured arms, which was in the year 1782. If it so happened that they missed them, they proceeded westward till they were certain of wreaking their vengeance

ance on those of the Rocky Mountain, who being without arms, became an easy prey to their blind and savage fury.

As late as the year 1788, when the first traders from Canada arrived on the banks of this river, the natives employed bows and snares; but at present very little use is made of the former, and the latter are no longer known. The men are in general of a comely appearance, and fond of personal decoration. The women are the contrary, they are the slaves of the men, who impose upon them great hardships. Except a few small dogs, the women alone perform that labour which in other countries is allotted to beasts of burthen. It is not uncommon, while the men carry nothing but their guns, for their wives and daughters to follow with such weighty burdens, that if they lay them down they cannot replace them, and as the men will not condescend to assist them they are frequently obliged, in the course of their journies, to lean against a tree with their load, for the purpose of obtaining a small portion of temporary relief. When they arrive at the place which their tyrants have chosen for their encampment, they arrange the whole in a few minutes, by forming a cone of poles meeting at the top, and expanding into circles of twelve or fifteen feet diameter at the bottom, covered with dressed moose skins, sewed together. During these preparations, the men sit down quietly and smoke their pipes. Notwithstanding, however, this abject state of slavery and submission, the women enjoy a considerable influence over the opinions of the men in every respect, except relatively to their own domestic situation.

These Indians are excellent hunters, and their exercise in this way is so violent as to give them in general a very meagre appearance. They are remarkable for their honesty, for in the whole tribe there were only two women and a man who had been known to have swerved from that virtue, and they were considered as objects of disregard and reprobation. They are afflicted

with but few diseases, and their only remedies consist in binding the temples, procuring perspiration, singing and blowing on the sick person, or on the part affected. When death overtakes any of them, all the property of the deceased is destroyed, and the lamentation of the relatives is carried to the greatest excess. The women in particular, not only cut their hair, and cry and howl, but on the death of a favourite son, a husband, or a father, they will sometimes, with the utmost deliberation, employ a sharp instrument to separate the nail from one of the fingers, and then force back the flesh beyond the first joint, which they immediately amputate. Many of the old women have so often repeated this ceremony that they have not a complete finger remaining on either hand. The chief of the nation had no less than nine wives and children in proportion.

They carry their love of gaming to excess, and will pursue it for many days and nights successively, no apprehension of ruin, or influence of domestic affection, being capable of restraining them from its indulgence. They are a quiet, lively, active people, with a keen penetrating dark eye; and though they are very susceptible of anger, are easily appeased. There are many old men among them, but they are in general ignorant of the space of time during which they have been inhabitants of the earth, though one of them said he recollected sixty winters.

On the 20th of April, although part of the river was yet covered with ice, the trees were budding, and many plants were in blossom. As soon as the month of April was past, Mr. Maclaurie ordered the old canoes to be repaired with bark, and added four new ones to them, when with the furs and provisions he had purchased, six canoes were loaded and dispatched on the 8th of May for Fort Chepewyan. He retained six of the men who agreed to accompany him on his projected voyage of discovery, and also engaged his hunters. He found

found the latitude of the place to be 56. 9 N. and the longitude 117. 35. 15 W.

The canoe in which Mr. Maclauries intended to pursue his expedition, was put into the water on the 6th of May; her dimensions were twenty-five feet long within, exclusive of the curves of stem and stem, twenty-six inches hold, and four feet nine inches bearn. She was so light that two men could carry her, on a good road, three or four miles without resting. In this slender vessel they shipped provisions, goods for presents, arms, ammunition and baggage; weighing in the whole three thousand pounds, together with ten people. They embarked on the same day at seven in the evening.

On the next day the canoe being strained from being very heavily laden, it became so leaky that they were obliged to land, to unload, and to gum it. The latitude was found to be 55. 58. 48. The west side of the river displayed a succession of beautiful scenery. The ground rises at intervals to a considerable height, whilst at every interval there is a very gently ascending space or lawn, which is alternate with abrupt precipices to the summit of the whole. Groves of poplars vary the scene, which is enlivened by vast herds of elks and buffaloes, the former chusing the steeps and uplands, and the latter preferring the plains. The whole country displayed an exuberant verdure. The east side of the river consists of a range of high land, covered with the white spruce and the soft birch, while the banks abound with the alder and the willow.

In the course of a few days succeeding, they met with several Indians, and they perceived along the river the tracks of large bears, some of which were nine inches wide, and of a proportionable length. They saw one of their dens, or winter quarters, called Watee, on an island, which was ten feet deep, five feet high, and six feet wide, but they had not yet seen one of those animals. The Indians entertain great apprehension of this kind of bear, which is called the Grisly bear, and they never venture

venture to attack it but in a party of at least three or four.

On the 14th the latitude was found to be 56. 11. 19 N. Very near the spot where the observation was taken, the Bear River, which is of a large appearance, falls in from the east. On the 16th they saw two grisly and hideous bears. The canoe on the 18th struck on the stump of a tree, and unfortunately where the banks were so steep that there was no place to unload, except a small spot, on which they contrived to dispose the lading in the bow, which lightened the canoe so as to raise the broken part of it above the surface of the water, by which contrivance they reached a convenient situation. In the course of the day they saw a ground hog, and two cormorants.

They encountered, on the 19th, very strong currents, and the canoe was placed in imminent danger. They were under the necessity of towing the canoe the greater part of the way, and the men who held the line were obliged to walk along a very steep and dangerous bank, where one false step would have been productive of the most destructive consequences. In another part of the way they were compelled to carry the canoe, for a short distance, over land. Providentially, however, they escaped all the dangers which presented themselves and encamped safely for the night.

On the next day they combated even greater danger. With infinite difficulty they passed over the foot of a rock, which fortunately was not a hard stone, so that they were enabled to cut steps in it for the distance of twenty feet; from this Mr. Maclaurie, at the hazard of his life, leaped on a small rock below, where he received those who followed him upon his shoulders. In this manner four of them passed and dragged up the canoe, in which attempt they broke her. Very luckily a dry tree had fallen from the rock above them, without which they could not have made a fire, as no wood was to be procured within a mile of the place. When the

the canoe was repaired, they continued towing it along the rocks to the next point, where they embarked, as they could not at present make any further use of the line, but got along the rocks of a round island of stone, till they came to a small sandy bay.

Mr. Macklay and the Indians who had been on shore since the canoe had been broken, were prevented from coming to them by the rugged and inaccessable state of the ground. Mr. Maclauries, and the party with him, therefore, again resumed their course, with the assistance of poles, with which they pushed onwards till they came beneath a precipice, where they could not find any bottom, so that they were again obliged to have recourse to the line, the management of which was rendered not only difficult but dangerous, as the men employed in towing were under the necessity of passing on the outside of trees that grew on the edge of the precipice. They however surmounted this difficulty as they had done many others, and the whole party once more united.

At noon, on the same day, Mr. Maclauries landed to take an altitude. While he was thus engaged, the men went on shore to fasten the canoe, but as the current was not very strong, they had been negligent in performing this office; it proved, however, sufficiently powerful to sheer her off, and if it had not happened that one of the men, from absolute fatigue, had remained and held the end of the line, they would have been deprived not only of every means of prosecuting their voyage, but even of present subsistence. The latitude was found to be 56 N. In the evening the canoe narrowly escaped being dashed to pieces in a rapid current which they had reached, their line being broken by a wave, by which they were thrown into the utmost alarm, and were glad to stop for the night, particularly, as the river above them, as far as they could see, was a continued white sheet of foaming water.

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The discouragements, difficulties, and dangers which had hitherto attended the progress of the enterprize did not fail to excite a strong desire in many of those who were engaged in it, to discontinue the pursuit, and it began to be muttered on all sides, that there was no alternative but to return; to these hints, however, Mr. Maclauries paid no attention. From the place where Mr. Maclauries had taken the altitude at noon, to that where they made their landing, the river is not more than fifty yards wide, and flows between stupendous rocks, from whence huge fragments sometimes tumble down, and falling from such a height dash into small stones with sharp points, which form the beach between the rocky projections. The whole of this day's course would have been altogether impracticable, if the water had been higher, which must be the case at certain seasons. Mr. Macklay, one of the party, reported, that in passing over the mountains he had observed several chasms in the earth, which emitted heat and smoke, and diffused a strong sulphureous smell.

The next day, the 21st, the latitude was found to be 56. 0. 8 N. Such was the state of the river that no alternative was left them, nor did any means of proceeding present themselves but the passage of a mountain, over which they must carry the canoe as well as the baggage. Two parties were sent out to reconnoitre by different routes; but both parties agreed on their return that the passage of the mountain was that which must be preferred.

At break of day, therefore, on the 22d they entered on this extraordinary journey. The men began without delay to cut a road up the mountain, and as the trees were but of small growth they felled those which they found convenient, in such a manner that they might fall parallel with the road, but did not separate them from the stumps, so that they formed a kind of railing on either side. They then advanced up the mountain with the canoe and baggage, having the line doubled and fastened

fastened successively as they went on to the stumps, while a man at the end of it hauled it round a tree, holding it on, and shifting it as they proceeded, so that they may be said to have warped the canoe up the mountain, and by a general and most laborious exertion they got every thing to the summit by two in the afternoon, lat. 56. 0. 47 N.

They continued their journey the next day, when the ground continued gently rising till noon, at which period it began to decline. This elevated situation, however, afforded them no prospect, as mountains rising still higher, and covered with snow, were seen far above them in every direction. With the greatest exertions, and the most penetrating wit and labour, they arrived at the river at four in the afternoon on the 24th. About two hundred yards below the spot at which they had arrived, the stream rushed with an astonishing but silent velocity between perpendicular rocks, which are not more than thirty-five yards asunder, when the water is high it was over those rocks in a channel three times that width, where it is bounded by far more elevated precipices.

They remained here till the next day, when they again embarked, during which time the water rose one foot and a half perpendicular height. On the 26th, though the sun had shone upon them throughout the day, the air was so cold that the men, although actively employed, could not resist it without the aid of their blanket coats. They attributed this circumstance in some measure to the general height of the country, and to the surrounding mountains, which were covered with ice and snow. They were alarmed at break of day on the 30th, when on shore, by the continual barking of their dog, and at length discovered that the cause of it proceeded from a wolf, who was parading a ridge a few yards behind them, having been most probably allured by the scent of their small portion of fresh meat.

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On the 31st, the men were so cold, that they landed at nine in the morning, to kindle a fire, which was considered as a very uncommon circumstance, at that season of the year; a small quantity of rum however served as an adequate substitute; shortly afterwards, they arrived at the fork, one branch running about W.N.W. and the other S.S.E. Mr. Maclauries thought the former most likely to bring them nearest to the part, where he wished to fall on the Pacific Ocean, but from what he had heard in answer to his enquiries, amongst the Indians, in the course of the expedition, he was induced to take the latter, into which they pursued their course, although contrary to the wishes of his men and the Indian, who was with them, particularly when they perceived the difficulty of stemming the current. Mr. Maclauries however determined to proceed, but the rush of water was so great, that they were most of the afternoon advancing two or three miles. Latitude on the 1st of June 55. 42. 16 N.

In no part of the North-west did they see so many beavers, as during this day: In some places these animals had cut down several acres of large poplars. The time which these wonderful creatures allot for their labours, whether in erecting their various habitations, or providing food, is the whole of the interval between the sitting and the rising of the sun. On the 3d of June the Latitude, 55. 22. 3 N.

They embarked, after resting for the night, on the 4th of June, at four in the morning, in a very heavy fog. The water had been continually rising, and in many places overflowed its banks. The current also was so strong that their progress was very tedious, and required the most laborious exertions. They could not find any place fit for an encampment until nine at night, when they landed on a bank of gravel, of which little more appeared above water than the spot they occupied. In the morning, however,

ever they found their canoe and baggage in the water, which had continued rising during the night.

Having traversed to the north shore, Mr. Maclauries disembarked, accompanied by Mr. Macklay and the hunters, in order to ascend an adjacent mountain, with the hope of obtaining a view of the interior part of the country. When they had reached the summit, they found that it extended onwards, in an even, level country, so that encumbered as they were with thick wood, no distant view could be obtained: Mr. Maclauries therefore climbed a very lofty tree, from the top of which he discovered, on the right, a ridge of mountains, covered with snow, bearing about north east, from thence another ridge of high land, whereon no snow was visible, stretched toward the South, between which, and the snowy hills, on the east side, there appeared to be an opening, which they determined to be the course of the river.

They returned to the river, and discharged their pieces, twice which was the signal agreed upon, with those who remained in the canoe, but received no answer. They waited with the greatest anxiety, and made excursions in various directions along the river, but could not gain sight of it. At half past six in the evening Mr. Macklay and one of the canoes of the Indians, set off to proceed down the river, as far as they could, before the night came on, and to continue their journey in the morning to the place, where they had encamped the preceding evening. Mr. Maclauries proposed to make his excursion upwards, and if they both failed of success in meeting the canoe, it was agreed they should return to the place where they then separated.

In this situation, Mr. Maclauries, and the Indian who was with him, had plenty of water to drink, but with solid food they were wholly unprovided; they had not seen even a partridge throughout the day, and the tracks of rein-deer that they had discovered,

were of an old date. They were however preparing to make a bed of the branches of trees, with no other canopy than the heavens, when they heard a shot, and soon afterwards another, which was the signal agreed upon if Mr. Macklay and the Indian should see the canoe. But Mr. Maclauries was so fatigued from the heat and exercise of the day, as well as incommoded from drinking an unusual quantity of cold water, that he did not wish to remove till the following morning, the Indian, however, made such bitter complaints of the cold and hunger, which he suffered, that Mr. Maclauries yielded to his solicitations, and they reached the canoe when it was nearly dark, barefooted and drenched with rain. When he arrived on board the canoe, the Indians, who had remained in it, told a dismal tale of the hardships they had undergone, in the course of the day, which Mr. Maclauries thought it prudent to affect to believe, and to comfort each of them with a consolatory dram.

On the 7th of June, the latitude was found to be 55. 2. 51 N. longitude 122. 35. 50 W. Mr. Macklay and the hunters walked the greatest part of the day, and in the course of their excursion, killed a porcupine. The next day it rained, and thundered during the night. For the last two days, they had been anxiously looking out for the carrying place, but could not discover it. All that remained for them to do, was to push forward, till the river became no longer navigable; it had now indeed overflowed its banks, so that it was eight at night, before they could discover a place to encamp. Having found plenty of wild parsnips, they gathered the tops, and boiled them with pemmican, for supper.

After pursuing their course, the greater part of the day, on the 9th, they discovered a smell of fire, and in a short time heard people in the woods, as if in a state of confusion. Mr. Maclauries ordered the canoe to be steered to the side of the river, but before they were

were half over, two men appeared on a rising ground, brandishing their spears, displaying their bows and arrows, and accompanying their hostile gestures with loud vociferations. The interpreter assured them, no injury was intended them; they did not seem however disposed to confide in this declaration, and actually threatened to discharge their arrows at the party in the canoe. Some time passed in hearing and answering their questions; and at length they consented to the landing of the party, though not without betraying very evident symptoms of fear and distrust. They however laid aside their weapons, and when Mr. Maclauries stepped forward and took each of them by the hand, one of them, but with a very tremulous action, drew his knife from his sleeve and presented it to him, as a mark of his submisson. They examined Mr. Maclauries, and those who were with him, and every thing about them, with minute and suspicious attention. They had heard of white men, but this was the first time they had ever seen a human being of a complexion different from their own. They had not been here but a few hours, nor had they yet erected their sheds; and, except these two men, they had all fled, leaving their little property behind them. The canoe was now unloaded, the necessary baggage carried up the hill, and the tents pitched.

About five in the afternoon, two hours after they had landed, the whole party of Indians had assembled. It consisted only of three men, three women, and seven or eight boys and girls. With their scratched legs, bleeding feet, and disheveled hair, as in the hurry of their flight they had left their shoes and leggings behind them, they exhibited a most wretched appearance; they were consoled, however, with beads and other trifles, which seemed to please them. Pemmican also was given them to eat, which was not unwelcome, and was at least superior to their own provisions, which consisted chiefly of dried fish.

Mr. Maclauries endeavoured to gain from them all the information they possessed, relative to the country through which his intended route lay, but he failed in obtaining what he sought for and expected, for they persisted in their ignorance of any such river as he mentioned, that discharged itself into the sea. Still, however, he could not avoid thinking, that they had not disclosed their knowledge of the country, freely and fully, and he had some doubts of the fidelity of his interpreter, who he knew was very much tired of the voyage; he therefore determined to make another attempt the next day, to obtain that information which he considered they possessed. In the mean time, on his expressing a desire to partake of their fish, they brought him a few dried trout, well cured, which had been taken in the river they lately left. One of the men also brought him five beaver skins as a present.

The next day he had another conference with them, when one of them said he knew of a large river that run towards the mid-day sun, a branch of which flowed near the source of that which they were now navigating, and that there were only three small lakes, and as many carrying places leading into a small river, which discharged itself into the great river, but that the latter did not empty itself into the sea. The opinion that the river did not discharge itself into the sea, Mr. Maclauries imputed to his ignorance of the country. His hopes were now renewed, and he resolved to continue his voyage with all expedition. He induced one of the Indians by presents to accompany him, as a guide, to the first inhabitants which they might expect to meet with on the small lakes.

These Indians are low in stature, not exceeding five feet, six or seven inches, and are of a meagre appearance. Their faces are round, with high cheek bones, and their eyes small, and of a dark brown colour. Their hair is of a dingy black, hanging loose and in disorder over their shoulders, their beards are eradicated with

with the exception of a few straggling hairs, and their complection of a swarthy yellow. Their dress consists of robes made of the skins of the beaver, the ground hog, and the rein deer, dressed in the hair, and of the moose skin without it. Their garments they tie over their shoulders, and fasten them round the middle with a belt of green skin, which is as stiff as horn. Their leggings are long, and if they were topped with a waistband might be called trowsers, which, as well as their shoes, are made of dressed moose, elk, or rein deer skins.

The women, in addition to their dress, have an apron which is fastened round the waist, and hangs down to the knees. They are in general more lusty than the men, and taller in proportion, but infinitely less cleanly. A black artificial stripe crosses the face, beneath the eyes, from ear to ear, which at first sight looks like scabs, but is the accumulation of dirt upon it.

Their arms consist of bows made of cedar, with a short iron spike at one end, which serves occasionally as spears. Their arrows are well made, barbed and pointed with iron, flint, stone, or bone. They have two kinds of spears, both double-edged, and of well-polished iron; and also spears made of bone. Their knives are pieces of iron shaped and handled by themselves. Their axes are something like our adze, and are used in the same manner.

They have snares made of green skin, which they cut to the size of sturgeon-twine, and twist a certain number of them together, and though when completed they do not exceed the thickness of a cod line, their strength is sufficient to hold a moose deer; they are from one and a half to two fathoms in length. Their nets and fishing lines are made of willow bark and nettles, those made of the latter are finer and smoother than if made with hempen thread. Their hooks are small bones fixed in pieces of wood split for the purpose, and tied round with fine watape. Their kettles are also made of watape,

so closely woven that they never leak; some are made of spruce bark, which they hang over the fire at such a distance as to receive the heat without being within reach of the blaze, a very tedious operation. They have spruce bark in great plenty, with which they make their canoes; the bark is taken off the tree the whole length of the intended canoe, which is commonly about eighteen feet, and is sewed with watape at both ends, two laths are then laid and fixed along the edge of the bark, which forms the gun-whale; in these are fixed the bars, and against them bear the ribs or timbers that are cut to the length, to which the bark can be stretched; and to give additional strength, slips of wood are laid between them, to make the whole water tight; gum is abundantly employed. These vessels carry from two to five people.

Previous to their departure, the natives had caught a couple of trout, of about six pounds weight, which they brought Mr. Maclauries, and he paid them with beads; they likewise gave him a net made with nettles, the skin of a moose deer dressed, and a white horn in the shape of a spoon.

On the 10th, at ten in the morning, they embarked. Their guide expressed much less concern about the undertaking in which he had engaged, than his companions, who appeared to be affected with great solicitude for his safety.

As they proceeded they found the river, the next day, reduced to the breadth of fifteen yards, with a moderate current. Shortly afterwards they quitted the main branch of the river, which, according to the information of the guide, terminated at a short distance, where it is supplied by the snow that covers the mountains. In the same direction is a valley, which appears to be of very great depth, and is full of snow, that rises nearly to the height of the land, and forms a reservoir of itself sufficient to furnish a river, whenever there is a moderate degree of heat. The branch which they

they left was not at this time more than ten yards broad, while that which they entered was still less. Here the current was very trifling, and the channel so meandering, that they sometimes found it difficult to work the canoe forward. The straight course from this to the entrance of a small lake or pond, is about (east) one mile. This entrance by the river into the lake, was almost choked up by a quantity of drift wood, which appeared to Mr. Maclauries an extraordinary circumstance, but he afterwards found that it falls down from the mountain. The water, however, was so high, that the country was entirely overflowed, and they passed with the canoe among the branches of trees. The principal wood along the banks is spruce, intermixed with a few white birch growing on detached spots, the intervening spaces being covered with willow and alder.

They advanced into the lake and took up their station for the night. They were disappointed in their expectation of seeing any natives, but were encouraged by their guide to hope they should see some to-morrow. They saw beavers, swans, geese, and ducks, in great numbers, but did not discharge their pieces from the fear of alarming the natives. They also saw blue-jays, yellow birds, and one beautiful humming bird; of the first and last they had not seen any since they had been in the north west. The lake is about two miles in length, east by south, and from three to five hundred yards wide. This Mr. Maclauries considered as the highest and southernmost of the Unjigate, or Peace River, latitude 54. 24 N. longitude 121 W. which after a winding course, through a vast extent of country, receiving many large rivers in its progress, and passing through the Slave Lake, empties itself into the Frozen Ocean in latitude 70 N. and longitude 135 W.

They were obliged the next day to clear away some floating drift wood, to get to the carrying place, over which is a beaten path of only one hundred and seventy five paces in length. The lake empties itself by a small river,

river, which if the channel was not interrupted by large trees that had fallen across it, would have admitted their canoe with all its lading; the impediment, indeed, might have been removed by two axe-men, in a few hours. On the edge of the water they observed a large quantity of thick yellow scum or froth, of an acrid taste and smell.

They embarbarked on the next lake, which is nearly of the same extent as that they had just left, from whence they passed into a small river which was so full of fallen wood as to require great exertion to force a passage. Their course continued to be obstsucted by banks of gravel, as well as fallen trees, through which they were obliged to force and cut their way at a great expence of time and trouble. At half past five in the afternoon they entered a small round lake of about one third of a mile in diameter. Regaining the river they were stopped, at half past six, by two large trees that lay across it, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the canoe was prevented from driving against them. Here they encamped for the night.

Having carried the canoe and lading, the next morning, the 13th, beyond the rapid current, they pushed off again into the river. They had proceeded but a short way when the canoe struck, and notwithstanding all their exertions, the violence of the current was so great as to drive her sideways down the river, and break her by the first bar. Mr. Maclauries immediately jumped into the water, and the men followed his example, but before they could set her straight, or stop her, they came to deeper water, and were obliged to re-embark with the utmost precipitation. They had scarcely regained their situations when they drove against a rock, which so shattered the stern of the canoe that it held only by the gunwale, and the steersman could no longer keep his place. The violence of this stroke drove them to the opposite side of the river, when the bow met with the same fate as the stern. At this-

this moment, the foreman seized on some branches of a small tree, in hopes to bring up the canoe, but such was their elasticity that he was jerked on shore in an instant with a degree of violence that threatened his destruction. In a few moments they came across a cascade, which broke several large holes at the bottom of the canoe, and started all the bars except one behind the scooping seat. If this accident, however, had not happened, the vessel must have been irretrievably overset. The wreck becoming flat upon the water they all jumped out, while the steersman called out to his companions to save themselves, but Mr. Maclauries' peremptory commands superseded the effect of his fear, and they all held fast to the wreck, to which fortunate resolution they owed their safety, as they would otherwise have been dashed against the rocks by the force of the water, or driven over the cascades. In this condition they were forced several hundred yards, and every yard on the verge of destruction; but at length they most fortunately arrived in shallow water, and a small eddy, where they were enabled to make a stand from the weight of the canoe, resting on the stones rather than from any exertion of their exhausted strength: For though their efforts were short, they were pushed to the utmost, as life and death depended on them. They now succeeded however in getting on shore with all the effects that were left. Mr. Maclauries remained on the outside of the canoe till every thing was landed, in a state of great pain from the extreme cold of the water, so that at length it was with difficulty he could stand from the benumbed state of his limbs.

Their loss was considerable and important; it consisted of their whole stock of bales and some of their furniture: but their own miraculous escape absorbed every other consideration. They fortunately sustained no material personal injury. The different articles were now spread out to dry. The powder had luckily received no damage, and all Mr. Maclauries' instruments had

had escaped. Indeed, when the Indians began to recover from their fright, they rather rejoiced at the misfortune, as they thought it would put a period to the voyage, of which they were heartily tired.

Mr. Maclauries however addressed them at some length, and induced them to consent to go wherever he should lead the way. He dispatched three of them to reconnoitre and to search for bark, and then joined the rest in order to repair, as well as they could, the wreck of the canoe. Latitude 54. 23 N.

Several trees and plants were observed on the banks of this river, which had not been seen before to the N. of latitude 52; such as the cedar, maple, hemlock, &c. At this time the water rose fast, and passed on with the rapidity of an arrow shot from a bow. The men who had been sent to reconnoitre, returned with very discouraging accounts, and a small quantity of bark. This did not however interrupt the task, in which they were engaged, of repairing the canoe, which they contrived to complete by the conclusion of the next day.

They were under the necessity of pursuing alternate journies by land and water, sometimes carrying the canoe and baggage over land, at imminent hazard, and with the utmost fatigue, during which their guide deserted, until the 17th, when, to their inexpressible satisfaction, they arrived on the bank of a navigable river, on the west side of the first great range of mountains, where they encamped for the night.

Pursuing their course along this river, they arrived on the 19th, at what they conceived at first to be a fall of the cataract. Upon closer inspection, however, they could not discover any fall; but the rapids were of a considerable length, and impassable for a light canoe. They were reduced therefore to the alternative of carrying her; but from her frequent repairs and other circumstances, her weight was such, that she cracked and broke on the shoulders of the men who bore her. Four hours of the most fatiguing labor were consumed in bearing the canoe

canoe over the carrying place, and some time beside in putting her in a condition to carry them on. Latitude 53. 42. 20. N. On the banks of this river there were great plenty of wild onions.

Shortly afterwards they saw a smoke on shore, but before they could reach land, the natives had deserted their camp, which appeared to be erected for no more than two families. Two Indians were instantly dispatched in search of them, who overtook them, but their language was mutually unintelligible, and all attempts to produce a friendly communication were fruitless, the natives actually discharging five arrows at the two Indians, which however the latter avoided by means of the trees. On hearing this account from the Indians, Mr. Maclauries, accompanied by Mr. Macklay, and one of the Indians, set off to overtake the natives, but they had so far gone that Mr. Maclauries thought it advisable to give up the pursuit.

The next day, they shot a red deer, and got it on board. The country, as they proceeded, began to change its appearance; the banks were but of a moderate height, from whence the ground continued gradually rising to a considerable distance, covered with poplars and cypresses, but without any kind of underwood. There are also several low points, which the river that is here about three hundred yards in breadth, sometimes overflows, and which are shaded with the liard, the soft birch, the spices and the willow. For some distance before they came to this part of the river, the banks were rugged, irregular and lofty, and were varied with the poplar, different kinds of spices, fir, small birch, trees, cedars, alders, and several species of the willow.

They landed this day at a deserted house, which was the only Indian habitation of the kind they had seen, on this side of Mechilimakina; it was about thirty feet long, and twenty wide, with three doors, three feet high, by one foot and a half in breadth; there were also three fire places, at equal distance from each other, and beds

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on each side of them, Behind the beds was a narrow space in the form of a manger and somewhat elevated, that was appropriated to the purpose of keeping fish. Openings appeared between the logs of the wall, for the purpose, as it was conjectured, of discharging arrows at a besieging enemy. Within, they also found a large machine of a cylindrical form, which was fifteen feet long, and four feet and a half in diameter, one end was square, like the head of a cask, and a conical machine was fixed inwards, to the other end, of similar dimensions, at the extremity of which was an opening of about seven inches diameter. This machine, they had no doubt, was contrived to set in the river to catch large fish, and very well adapted for that purpose; as when they were once in, it would be impossible for them to get out, unless it should have strength sufficient to break through it. It was made of long pieces of split wood, rounded to the size of a small finger, and placed, at the distance of an inch asunder, on six hoops; to this was added, a kind of boot, of the same materials, into which, it may be supposed, the fish are driven, when they are to be taken out.

Their canoe was now become so crazy, that it was a matter of absolute necessity to construct another. Mr. Maclauries therefore dispatched four men, for the purpose of procuring bark, who returned with a sufficient quantity to make the bottom of a canoe, of five fathoms in length, and four feet and a half in height. They pursued their course however as yet in the old canoe.

Latitude on the 21st, 52. 47. 51N. A number of Indians appeared on one of the banks, who after making use of many menaces, discharged a volley of arrows, some of which fell short of the canoe, and others passed over it, so that fortunately they did no injury. Mr. Maclauries having due precaution, left the canoe, and walked by himself along the beach. Some presents were offered on the part of Mr. Maclauries, and every thing said that could tend to sooth the fears, and produce the confidence

confidence of the natives, who having held a consultation for a short time, at length the most familiar communication took place between both parties. Mr. Maclauries encamped, and endeavoured to procure information from the natives, relative to the river he was proceeding in, but could not obtain any that was very satisfactory.

These Indians consisted of seven families, containing eighteen men, they were clad in leather, and had some beaver and rabbit skin blankets. They had not been long arrived in this part of the country, when they proposed to pass the summer, to catch fish, for their winter provision; for this purpose they were preparing machines, similar, to that which had been observed in the Indian-house, lately examined. The first which they take in them are large, which only visit this part of the river at certain seasons. These people differ very little, if at all either in their appearance, language or manners, from the Rocky Mountain Indians. Some bark was obtained here, but of a very indifferent kind.

They pursued their course on the 22nd, with two of the natives whom Mr. Maclauries persuaded to accompany them. The country on the right presented a very beautiful appearance; it rose at first rather abruptly to the height of seventy-five feet, when the precipice was succeeded by an inclined plain to the foot of another steep, which was followed by another extent of gently rising ground; these objects, which were shaded with groves of fir, presenting themselves alternately to a considerable distance.

Shortly afterwards they landed and observed several men, who at first displayed a spirit of hostility, but were soon persuaded into friendly intercourse. They held their bows and arrows in their hands, and appeared in their garments which were fastened round the neck, but left the right arm free for action. A cord fastened a blanket, or leather covering, under the right arm-pit, so that it hung upon the left shoulder, and might be occasionally employed as a target, that would turn an

arrow that was nearly spent. Proceeding a short distance further, they landed again on seeing some natives on the high ground, whose appearance was more wild and ferocious than any they had yet seen. They were at length, however, persuaded to entertain a more favourable opinion of Mr. Maclauries, and his party, and approached one after another to the number of sixteen men and several women. Mr. Maclauries shook hands with them all, and desired his interpreters to explain that salutation as a token of friendship.

They landed again at a more convenient place a little further on, when they were joined by those natives they had already seen, and several others; there were thirty-five of them, and Mr. Maclauries' remaining store of presents was not sufficient to enable him to be very liberal to so many claimants. Mr. Maclauries wished for all the information that could be obtained, relative to the country through which his intended route lay, and one of the natives began by drawing a sketch upon a large piece of bark, frequently appealing to and asking the advice of those around him.

The information given by these natives was very discouraging, and those who were with Mr. Maclauries, and who had listened with great attention, seemed to be of opinion that it would be absolute madness to attempt a passage through so many savages and barbarous nations, as they had heard of from the natives: Mr. Maclauries' situation might indeed be more easily conceived than expressed, he had no more than thirty days provision remaining, exclusive of such supplies he might obtain from the natives and the toil of the hunters, which, however, was so precarious as to be matter of little dependence, besides their ammunition would soon be exhausted, particularly their ball, of which they had not more than one hundred and fifty, and about thirty pounds weight of small shot, which indeed might be converted into bullets, but with great waste.

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From what he had heard of the river, he was convinced it could not empty itself into the ocean, to the north of what is called the River of the West, so that with its windings the distance must be very great. Such being the discouraging circumstances of his situation, added to the discontents of his people, he could not but be alarmed at the idea of attempting to get to the discharge of such a rapid river, especially when he reflected upon the hardy progress of his return up it. He determined, however, to proceed with resolution and set future events at defiance; at the same time he suffered himself to cherish the hope that he might be able to penetrate with more safety, and in a shorter period, to the ocean, by the inland western communication.

To carry this project into execution, he must have returned a considerable distance up the river, which would necessarily be attended with a very serious inconvenience, as being a retrograde motion, it could not fail to cool the ardor, slacken the zeal, and weaken the confidence of those who had no greater inducement to the undertaking than to follow the conductor of it. These considerations distressed the mind of Mr. Maclauries not a little.

To those people, who had given him all the information they could, Mr. Maclauries presented some beads, which they preferred to any other article in his possession. In the afternoon they had a thunder storm with heavy rain, and in the evening when it had subsided, the Indians amused them with singing and dancing, in which they were joined by the young women. After a restless night, Mr. Maclauries called the Indians together with a view of obtaining, if possible, some additional information. At the commencement, however, of this conversation, he was much surprised by the following question from one of the Indians: "What," demanded he, "can be the reason that you are so particular and anxious in your inquiries of us respecting a knowledge of this country; do not you white men know

every thing in the world ?" This interrogatory was so very unexpected that it occasioned some hesitation before Mr. Maclauries could answer it. At length, however, he replied that they certainly were acquainted with the principal circumstances of every part of the world, that he knew where the sea was, and where he himself then was, but that he did not exactly understand what obstacles might interrupt him in getting to it, with which the Indian, who had asked the question, and his relations must be well acquainted, as they had so frequently surmounted them. Thus he fortunately preserved the impression on their minds of the superiority of white people over them, but gained little additional information.

It became now, however, absolutely necessary for Mr. Maclauries to come to a final determination which route to take, and no long interval of reflection was employed before he preferred to go over-land; the comparative shortness and security of such a journey being alone sufficient to determine him. He accordingly proposed to two of the Indians to accompany him, and one of them readily assented to his proposition.

He now called those of his people about him who had not been present at his consultation with the natives, and after passing a warm eulogium on their fortitude, patience, and perseverance; he stated the difficulties that threatened their continuing to navigate the river, the length of time it would require, and the scanty provision they had for such a voyage; he then proceeded for the foregoing reasons to propose a shorter route by trying the over-land road to the sea; at the same time, as he knew from experience the difficulty of retaining guides, and as many circumstances might occur to prevent their progress in that direction, he declared his resolution not to attempt it, unless they would engage if they could not, after all, proceed over-land, to return with him and continue their voyage to the discharge of the waters, whatever the distance might

might be. At all events, he declared in the most solemn manner, that he would not abandon his design of reaching the sea, if he made the attempt alone, and that he did not despair of returning in safety to his friends.

This proposition met with the most zealous return, and they unanimously assured him that they were as willing now as they had ever been to abide by his resolutions, whatever they might be, and to follow him wherever he should go. He therefore requested them to prepare for an immediate departure, and at the same time gave notice to the man, who had engaged to be their guide, to be in readiness to accompany them. When their determination to return up the river was made known, some of the natives took a very abrupt departure, but to those who remained Mr. Maclauries gave a few useful articles, explaining to them at the same time, the advantages that would result to them, if their relation conducted him to the sea along such a road as they had described. He had already given a moose skin to some of the women, for the purpose of making shoes, which were brought very well sewed, but ill-shaped, and a few beads, was considered as a sufficient remuneration for the skill employed on them.

They embarked at ten in the morning on the 23d, and went up the current much faster than could be expected with such a crazy vessel as carried them. Their guide had previously insisted on going over land to his lodge, that he might get there before them, to make some necessary preparations for his journey, to which Mr. Maclauries was obliged to consent, but thought it prudent to send Mr. Macklay and the two Indians along with him. There they were met at the place appointed, but the guide persisted in preferring to go over land, and it was needless for Mr. Maclauries to oppose him; he proceeded therefore with his former companions.

In a short time, Mr. Maclauries and the remaining party saw a wooden canoe with three natives in it, who

on perceiving them made for the shore and hurried into the woods. They landed for the night at nine, and having encamped went to rest in a state of perfect security. They were in the canoe again by four the next morning, and soon came in sight of the point where they had first seen the natives. They were now much surprised and disappointed at seeing Mr. Macklay and the two Indians coming alone from the ruins of a house, which had been partly carried away by the ice and water, at a short distance below the place where they had appointed to meet; nor was their surprise and apprehension diminished by the alarm which was painted on the countenances of Mr. Macklay, and the Indians, who informed Mr. Maclauries they had taken refuge in that place with the determination to sell their lives, which they considered in the most imminent danger, as dearly as possible. In a very short time after Mr. Macklay and the Indians had quitted the rest of the party, they met a party of the natives, who appeared to be in extreme rage, and had their bows bent with their arrows across them. The guide stopped to ask these people some questions, which Mr. Macklay and the Indians did not understand, and then set off with the utmost speed. The latter, however, did not leave him till both were exhausted with running; the guide at length informed them that some treacherous design was manifested against them, as he was induced to believe from the declaration of the natives, who told him they were going to do mischief, but refused to name the enemy. He then conducted them through very bad ways as fast as they could run, and when he was desired to slacken his pace, he answered, that they might follow him in any manner they pleased, but that he was impatient to get to his family in order to prepare shoes and other necessaries for his long journey. They did not, however, think it prudent to quit him, and he did not stop till ten at night. On passing a track that was but lately made, they began to be seriously

ously alarmed, and on enquiring of the guide where they were, he pretended not to understand them. They then all laid down exhausted with fatigue, and cold, wet, and hungry, but they dared not light a fire, from the apprehension of an enemy. At the dawn of day they set off, and on their arrival at the lodges found them deserted, the guide then made two or three trips into the woods, calling aloud and bellowing like a madman, at length he set off in the same direction as they came, and had not since appeared. Not finding Mr. Maclauries, and the party with him, at the place appointed, they concluded that they were all destroyed, and had in despair formed a plan to take to the woods and cross, in as direct a line as possible, to the Peace River, which they intended to carry into execution if the latter did not arrive by noon.

This alarm among the natives was a very unexpected, as well as perilous event, and Mr. Maclauries's power of conjecture was exhausted in searching for the cause of it. A general panic seized all around him, who seemed to consider any farther prosecution of the voyage as hopeless and impracticable. Without, however, paying the least attention to their opinions or surmises, he ordered them to take every thing out of the canoe, except six packages, when that was done he left four men to take care of the lading, and returned with the others to the camp of the preceding night, where he hoped to find the two men, with their families, whom they had seen there, and to be able to bring them to the lodge with them, when he would wait the issue of this mysterious business. This project was however disappointed, for these people had quitted their sheds in the stillness of the night, and had not taken a single article of their little property with them.

These perplexing circumstances made a deep impression on Mr. Maclauries's mind, for though he entertained not the least apprehension of the Indians he had hitherto seen, though their whole force should be combined

bined to attack him, yet these untoward events threatened the prosecution of his journey. Whatever might have been the wavering disposition of his people on former occasions, they were now decided in their opinions as to the necessity of returning without delay, and when he came back to them their cry was, "Let us re-embark and be gone." This, however, was not his design, and in a more preremptory tone than he usually employed, they were ordered to unload the canoe and take her out of the water. They now took a position that was best calculated for defence, got their arms in complete order, filled each man's flask of powder, and distributed an hundred bullets, which was all that remained, while some were employed in melting down shot to make more.

While they were employed in making these preparations they saw the Indian, in a canoe, come down the river and land at the huts, which he began to examine. On perceiving them he stood still as if in a state of suspense, when Mr. Maclauries instantly dispatched one of his Indians towards him, but no persuasions could induce him to have confidence in them; he even threatened that he would hasten to his friends, who would come and kill them. At the conclusion of this menace he disappeared.

To add to their distress they had not an ounce of gum for the reparation of the canoe, and not one of the men had sufficient courage to venture into the woods to collect it. In this perplexing situation Mr. Maclauries ordered the canoe to be loaded, and dropped to an old house, one side of which with its roof had been carried away by the water, but the then remaining angles was sufficient to shelter them from the woods. He then ordered two strong piquets to be driven into the ground, to which the canoe was fastened; so that if they were hard pressed they had only to step on board and push off. They were under the necessity of making a smoke to keep off the swarms of flies which would otherwise have

tormented

tormented them, but they did not venture to excite a blaze as it would have been a mark for the arrows of the enemy. Mr. Maclauries, Mr. Macklay, and three men kept alternate watch, and allowed the Indians to do as they liked.

At five the next morning, the 25th, they arose, and as the situation they left on the preceding day was preferable to that they then occupied, Mr. Maclauries determined to return to it. On their arrival Mr. Macklay informed him, that the men had expressed their dissatisfaction to him in a very unreserved manner, and had in very strong terms declared their resolution to follow Mr. Maclauries no further in his proposed enterprize; Mr. Maclauries, however, would not appear to have received any secret communication, and employed all his thoughts in contriving means to bring about a reconciliation with the natives. Latitude 52. 47. 51 N.

While Mr. Maclauries was employed in taking the latitude, the men loaded the canoe without his orders, and as this was the first time they had ventured to act in such a decided manner, he naturally concluded that they had preconcerted a plan for their return; he thought it prudent, however, to take no notice of this transaction, and to wait the issue of future circumstances. At this moment his Indians perceived a person in the edge of the woods above them, and they were immediately dispatched to discover who it was. After a short absence they returned with a young woman whom they had seen before, but her language was not clearly comprehended, so that they could not learn from her, with any degree of certainty, the cause of the unfortunate alarm which had taken place among the natives. She told them her errand was to fetch some things she had left behind her; they treated her with great kindness, gave her something to eat, and added a present of such articles as they thought might please her. On her expressing a wish to leave them, they readily consented to her departure, and indulged the

the hope that her reception would induce the natives to return in peace, and afford an opportunity of convincing them that there was no hostile design intended against them.

Though a very apparent anxiety prevailed among the people for their departure, Mr. Maclauries appeared to be wholly inattentive to it, and at eight in the evening he ordered four men to step into the canoe, which had been loaded for several hours, and drop down to the guard house; his command was immediately obeyed, the rest proceeded there by land. About midnight a rustling noise was heard in the woods which created a general alarm, and Mr. Maclauries was awakened to be informed of the circumstance, but heard nothing. At one he took his turn of the watch, and the dog continued unceasingly to run backwards and forwards along the skirts of the wood, in a state of restless vigilance. At two in the morning the centinel informed him that he saw something like a human figure, creeping along on all-fours, about fifty paces above them. After some time had passed in their search, Mr. Maclauries at length discovered that the information was true, and it appeared to him that a bear had occasioned the alarm, but when day-light appeared it proved to be an old grey-haired blind man, who had been compelled to leave his hiding place by extreme hunger, being too infirm to join in the flight of the natives to whom he belonged. When Mr. Maclauries put his hand upon this object of decayed nature, the alarm of the old man was so great that he was almost thrown into convulsions: Mr. Maclauries immediately led him to the fire, which had been just lighted, and gave him something to eat, which he much wanted, as he had not tasted food for two days. When his hunger was satisfied, and he became warm and composed, Mr. Maclauries requested information of him as to the cause of that alarm that had taken place respecting them, among his relations and friends, whose regard appeared to have been conciliated

conciliated but a few days preceding. He replied, that very soon after they had left his friends, some natives arrived from above, who said they were enemies, and their unexpected return, in direct contradiction to their own declaration, had confirmed that opinion. The natives were now, he said, so scattered, that a considerable time would elapse before they could meet again. Mr. Maclauries gave him the real history of their return, as well as of the desertion of their guide, and at the same time stated the impossibility of their proceeding unless they procured a native to conduct them. He replied, that if he had not lost his sight he would, with the greatest readiness, have accompanied them: He also confirmed the accounts which they had received of the country, and the route to the westward. Mr. Maclauries did not neglect to employ every argument in his power that the old man might be persuaded of their friendly disposition to the inhabitants, whereever they might meet them. The old man informed them also that he expected a considerable number of his tribe to come on the upper part of the river, to fish for present support, and to cure them for winter store, among whom he had a son and two brothers.

In consequence of these communications, Mr. Maclauries deemed it altogether unnecessary to lose any further time at this place, and he informed the old man that he must accompany him for the purpose of introducing them to his friends and relations, and that if he met with his son or brothers, Mr. Maclauries depended upon him to persuade them, or some of their party, to attend the former and his people, as guides in their meditated expedition. He expressed his wishes to be excused from this service; and in other circumstances they would not have insisted on it, but situated as they were they could not yield to his request.

At seven in the morning they left this place, which Mr. Maclauries named Deserter's River or Creek. Their blind guide was however so averse to continuing among

among them, that Mr. Maclauries was under the very disagreeable necessity of ordering the men to carry him into the canoe, and this was the first act during their voyage that had the semblance of violent dealing.

The canoe was at length become so leaky as to be absolutely unfit for service, and it was the unremitting employment of one person to keep her clear of water, they therefore inquired of the old man where they could conveniently obtain the articles necessary to build a new one, and they understood from him that at some distance up the river they should find plenty of bark and cedar.

Throughout the whole of this day the men had been in a state of extreme ill humour, and as they did not choose openly to vent it upon Mr. Maclauries, they disputed and quarrelled among themselves. About sunset the canoe struck upon the stump of a tree, which broke a large hole in her bottom, a circumstance that gave them an opportunity to let loose their discontent, without reserve. Mr. Maclauries left them as soon as they had landed, and ascended an elevated bank much harassed in his mind. At this place there was a subterraneous house, where he determined to pass the night. The water had risen since they passed down, and it was with the utmost exertion that they came up several points in the course of the day.

They embarked at half past four, (the 27th,) with very favourable weather, and at eight they landed where there was an appearance of their being able to procure bark, they however obtained but a small quantity. At twelve they went on shore again and extracted as much as was necessary for their purpose. It now remained for them to fix on a proper place for building another canoe, as it was impossible to proceed with their old one, which was become an absolute wreck. At five in the afternoon they came to a spot well adapted to the business in which they were about to engage. It was on a small island not much encumbered with wood,

though

though there was plenty of the spruce kind on the opposite land, which was only divided from them by a small channel. They now landed, but before the canoe was unloaded and the tent pitched, a violent thunder storm came on, accompanied with rain, which did not subside till the night had closed in upon them.

At a very early hour the next morning every man was employed in making preparations for building another canoe, and different parties went in search of wood, watape, and gum. At two in the afternoon they all returned successful, except the collectors of gum, and of that article it was much feared they would not obtain here a sufficient supply for their immediate wants. After a necessary portion of time allotted for refreshment each began his particular work. Latitude 53. 2. 32 N.

The weather continued fine till the 28th. At five o'clock, they renewed their labour, and the canoe was got in a state of considerable forwardness. The conductor of the work, though a good man, was remarkable for the tardiness of his operations, whatever they might be, and was more disposed to eat, than be active; Mr. Maclauries therefore took the opportunity of unfolding his sentiments to him, and thereby discovering to all around, the real state of his mind, and the resolution he had formed for his future conduct. After reproaching him for his general inactivity, but particularly on the present occasion, when their time was so precious, Mr. Maclauries mentioned the apparent want of economy, both of himself and his companions, in the article of provisions. He informed him, that he was not altogether a stranger to their late conversation, from whence he drew the conclusion, that they wished to put an end to the voyage, if that were so, he expressed his wish, that they would be explicit, and tell him at once their determination to follow him no longer. He concluded, however by assuring the man, that whatever plan they

had meditated to pursue, it was his fixed and unalterable determination, to proceed, in spite of every difficulty that might oppose, or danger that should threaten him. The man was very much mortified at this remonstrance, being addressed particularly to him, and replied, that he did not deserve his displeasure, more than the rest of them. Mr. Maclauries' object being answered, the conversation dropped, and the work went on.

About two in the afternoon, a canoe appeared in sight, with two natives on board, who agreeably surprized them by coming up to the Island, when they recognized their guide, and a native, whom they had already seen. The former apologized for his conduct, and assured Mr. Maclauries, that since he had left him, his whole time had been employed in searching after his family, who had been siezed with the general panic, that had been occasioned by the false report of the people, who had fled. He said it was generally apprehended by the natives, that Mr. Maclauries and his party, had been unfriendly to their relations above, who were now expected on the river in great numbers. Latitude obs. 3. 7 N.

The blind old man gave a very favorable account of them to his friends, and they all three were very merry together, during the whole of the afternoon. That their guide, however, might not escape from them, during the night, Mr. Maclauries determined to watch him. The strangers conducted themselves with great good humour throughout the next day, but at about eleven at night, Mr. Maclauries observed the old man creeping, on his hands and knees, towards the water side. They followed him to the canoe, and found he would have gone away with it, if he had not been interrupted in his design. He denied however the intention, of which he was accused, and declared his sole object was to assuage his thirst. At length, however, he acknowledged the truth, and Mr. Maclauries

Maclauries thought it necessary to set a watch upon him during the remainder of the night. The guide, however, and his companion found means, whilst Mr. Macklay, who was upon the watch, was busily employed on the canoe, to escape unperceived.

At five in the afternoon (1st of July) their vessel was completed, and ready for service. She proved a stronger and better boat than the old one, though had it not been for the gum, obtained from the latter, it would have been a matter of great difficulty to have procured a sufficiency of that article, to have prevented her from leaking. The remainder of the day was employed by the people in cleaning and refreshing themselves, as they had enjoyed no relaxation from their labour, since they landed on this spot. The old man having manifested, for various and probably, very fallacious reasons, a very great aversion to accompany them any further, it did not appear that there was any necessity to force his inclination. Mr. Maclauries therefore gave him a few pounds of pemmican, for his immediate support, and took leave of him, and the place, which he named Canoe Island.

During their stay there, they had been most cruelly tormented by the flies, particularly the sand fly, which they considered as the most tormenting insect, of its size, in nature. Mr. Maclauries was compelled to put the people upon short allowance, and confine them to two meals a day, one of which was composed of the dried roes of fish, pounded and boiled in water, thickened with a small quantity of flour, and fattened with a bit of grian. These articles being brought to the consistency of a hasty pudding, produce a substantial, and not unpleasant dish. The natives are very careful of the roes of fish, which they dry, and preserve in baskets, made of bark. The men were however in high spirits, when they perceived the superior excellence of the new vessel, and reflected that it was the work of their own hands.

At eleven o'clock (the 2d) they arrived at the Rapids, and experienced considerable difficulty, and danger in clearing them. Two of the men took the line, which was seventy fathom in length, with a small roll of bark, and after climbing the rock, they descended on the other side of that, which opposed the progress of the canoe, and then having fastened the end of the line to the roll of bark, the latter was carried to the canoe by the current. The men thus drew up the canoe, though to get to the water's edge above, they were obliged to let themselves down with the line, twisted round a tree, from the summit of the rock. They at length cleared the Rapid, with the additional trouble of carrying the canoe, and unloading at two cascades. They were not more than two hours getting up this difficult part of the river, including the time employed in repairing a hole, which had been broken in the canoe, by the negligence of the steersman.

There they expected to meet with the natives, but there was not the least appearance of them. They saw several fish leap out of the water, which appeared to be of the salmon kind. At ten in the morning, on the 3d, they came to a small river, which answered to the description of that, whose course the natives had said they followed, in their journies to the sea coast. Mr. Maclauries was much perplexed, but at length determined to proceed a few leagues further up the river; they were in expectation of finding their guide, or procuring another, as after all they might return hither.

They proceeded about four in the afternoon, and had not been upon the water more than three quarters of an hour, when they saw two canoes coming with the stream. The people in the canoes having perceived them, immediately landed, and they went on shore at the same place. These people proved to be their guide and six of his relations. He was covered with a painted beaver robe, so that they scarcely knew him in his fine habiliment. The strangers examined them with the most

most minute attention, and two of them, as Mr. Maclauries was now informed, belonged to the people, whom they first saw, and who fled with so much alarm from them. They told Mr. Maclauries that they were so much terrified on that occasion, as not to approach their huts for two days; and that when they ventured thither, they found the greater part of their property destroyed by the fire, running on the ground. These people are called Naseud Dence, but though said to be of a different tribe, Mr. Maclauries found no difference in their language, from that of the Nejaitas or Carriers. Their lodges were at some distance, on a small lake, and had not the guide gone there for them, Mr. Maclauries would not have seen any human being on the river. They informed him, that the road by their habitations, was the shortest, and they proposed that he should take it.

At an early hour on the morning of the 4th, and at the suggestion of their guide, they proceeded to the landing place, leading to the strangers' lodges, and from thence onwards, till half past eight, when they landed at the entrance of a small rivulet, where their friends were waiting for them.

Here it was necessary that they should leave their canoe, and whatever they could not carry on their backs. In the first place, therefore, they prepared a stage, on which the canoe was placed, bottom upwards, and shaded by a covering of small leaves and branches, to keep her from the rain. They then built an oblong hollow square, ten feet by five, of green logs, wherein they placed every article, it was necessary for them to leave there, and covered the whole with large pieces of timber.

While they were employed in this necessary business, their guide and his companions were so impatient to be gone, that they could not persuade the former to wait till they were prepared for their departure, and they had some difficulty in persuading another of the

natives to remain, who had undertook to conduct them; when the guide had promised to wait their arrival.

At noon they were in a state of preparation to enter the woods, and carried on their backs four bags and a half of pemmican, weighing from eighty-five to ninety pounds each; a case with Mr. Maclauries's instruments; a parcel of goods for presents, weighing ninety pounds; and another parcel containing ammunition, of the same weight. Each of the Canadians had a burden of about forty-five pounds weight of pemmican to carry, besides their gun, &c. with which they were very much dissatisfied, and if they had dared, would have instantly decamped. Mr. Maclauries's own load, and that of Mr. Macklay, consisted of twenty-two pounds of pemmican, some rice, a little sugar, &c. amounting in the whole to about seventy pound each, besides their arms and ammunition. Mr. Maclauries had also the tube of his telescope, swung across his shoulder, which was a very troublesome addition to his burden. It was determined, that they should content themselves with two meals a-day, which was regulated without difficulty, as their provisions did not require the ceremony of cooking.

In this state of equipment they began their journey about twelve at noon, the commencement of which was a steep ascent of about a mile, it lay along a well-beaten path, but the country through which it led was rugged, and full of wood. When they were in a state of extreme heat from the toil of their journey, the rain came on and continued till the evening, and when it ceased the underwood continued its dropping upon them.

About half-past six they arrived at an Indian camp with three fires, where they found their guide, and on his recommendation they determined to remain there for the night. The computed distance of this day's journey was about twelve geographical miles.

At sun-set an elderly man and three other natives joined them from the westward; the former bore a lance

lance that very much resembled a serjeant's halberd, which he had lately received, he said, by way of barter from the natives of the sea-coast, who procured it from the white men. According to his report it did not require more than six days journey, for people who were heavily laden, to reach the country of those with whom they bartered their skins for iron, &c. and from thence it was not quite two days march to the sea. These natives proposed to send two young men on before Mr. Maclauries and his party, to notify to the different tribes that they were approaching, in order that those tribes might not be surprized at their appearance, and might be disposed to a friendly reception. This was a measure which Mr. Maclauries could not but approve, and he endeavoured, by some small presents, to prepossess their couriers in his favour.

These people live poorly at this season, and Mr. Maclauries could scarce procure any provision from them, except a few small dried fish of the carp kind. As soon as Mr. Maclauries and his party laid down to rest, the natives began to sing in a manner very different from what the former had been accustomed to hear among savages. It was not accompanied either by dancing, drum or rattle, but consisted of soft plaintive tones and a modulation that was rather agreeable, it had somewhat the air of church music.

At five the next morning, when they were ready to depart, the guide refused to accompany them any further, alledging that the young men would answer their purpose as well as himself. Mr. Maclauries knew it would be in vain to remonstrate with him, and therefore submitted. He thought proper, however, to inform him that one of the people had lost his dag or poignard, requesting his assistance in the recovery of it. The man asked Mr. Maclauries what he would give him to conjure it back again, and a knife was promised to be the price of his necromantic exertion. Accordingly all the dags and knives in the place were gathered together,

there and the natives formed a circle round them, the conjuror remaining in the middle. When this part of the ceremony was arranged he began to sing, the rest joining in the chorus, and after some time he produced the poignard, which was stuck in the ground, and returned it to Mr. Maclauries.

The guide, however, before they departed, voluntarily offered to accompany them, and actually conducted them as far as a small lake, where they found an encampment of these families. Mr. Maclauries endeavoured to persuade an elderly man of this encampment to accompany him to the next tribe, but could not prevail upon him to comply with his wishes. He was therefore obliged to content himself with the guides already engaged, for whom he was obliged to wait some time till they had provided stores for their journey.

In the course of the day, as they proceeded, they found the ground covered with hail, the hailstones increased in size as they advanced, some of them being as big as musket balls. They also passed three winter huts, with a ridge hole, covered with the branches of the Canadian balsam tree. One of the men had a violent pain in his knee, and Mr. Maclauries asked the guides to take a share of his burthen, as they had nothing very heavy to carry but their beaver robes and bows and arrows, but they could not be made to understand a word of the request.

At half past eight on the 6th, they fell upon the road which they first intended to have taken from the Great River, and which must be shorter than that which they had travelled. The West Road River was also in sight, winding through a valley. They had not met with any water since their encampment on the preceding night, and they were afflicted with violent thirst, the river was at such a distance from them, and the descent to it so long and steep that they were compelled to be satisfied with casting their longing looks towards it.

Their

Their guides now left them to inform the next tribe of their approach; but Mr. Maclauries, mistrusting that they would desert and return home, followed them himself as fast as he could, accompanied by one of his Indians; they did not overtake them however till they came to a family of natives, consisting of one man, two women, and six children, with whom they found them. The man pointed out one of his wives as a native of the sea-coast, which he said was at no great distance. This woman was more inclined to corpulency than any they had yet seen, was of a low stature, with an oblong face, grey eyes, and a flattish nose. She was decorated with ornaments of various kinds, such as large blue beads, either pendant from her ears, encircling her neck, or braided in her hair, and also wore bracelets of brass, copper and horn; her garments consisted of a kind of tunic, which was covered with a robe of matted bark, fringed round the bottom with sea-otter skins. None of the women whom they had seen since they crossed the mountain wore this kind of dress. She confirmed the account of her husband, that they were at no great distance from the sea. Age seemed to be an object of great veneration with these people, as they carried an old woman by turns on their backs, who was quite blind and infirm from the advanced period of her life.

The rest of Mr. Maclauries's party having joined him, they proceeded, accompanied by a boy from the family they had just quitted, instead of the elder of the guides, who would not go any farther. About two in the afternoon they came up with two men and their families, who, when they first saw them, were sitting down, but no sooner did they perceive them than they rose and seized their arms. The guides, however, having spoken to them, they laid by their arms and received them as friends. These people had a very sickly appearance; one of the women had a tattooed line along her chin, of the same length as her mouth.

Their

Their former guides were now replaced by these two men, with whom Mr. Maclauries and his party proceeded; they came to an uneven, hilly and swampy country, through which their way was impeded by a considerable number of fallen trees. At five in the afternoon they were overtaken by a heavy shower of rain and hail, and being at the same time very much fatigued, they encamped for the night near a small creek.

At five the next morning, (the 7th) they quitted their station, and proceeded across two mountains covered with spruce, poplar, white birch, and other trees. They then descended into a level country, where they found a good road through woods of cypress. They arrived at two small lakes, at the distance of fourteen miles, through which the river passes, and their road kept on a parallel line with it on a range of elevated ground. Shortly afterwards they came up with a party, consisting of a man, two women, and the same number of children. The eldest of the women was engaged in clearing a circular spot, of about five feet in diameter, of the weeds that infested it; this spot contained the grave of her husband and a son, and whenever she passed this way she always stopped to pay this tribute of affection.

Coming up with another party, consisting of seven men, and several women and children, they took another guide, and continuing their route at six o'clock in the evening, crossed the river which was knee deep and about one hundred yards over. At the recommendation of their guide they proceeded onwards to a family of his friends, where they arrived at half past seven, and where he had gone forward and procured them a welcome and quiet reception.

It rained throughout the night, and it was seven the next morning before the weather would allow them to proceed. The guide brought them five small boiled fish, in a platter made of bark, some of which were of the carp kind, and the others of a species unknown to

to them. Having dried their clothes they proceeded again about eight, their guide cheerfully continuing to accompany them.

In this part of their journey they were surprized with the appearance of several regular basons, some of them furnished with water and the others empty; their slope, from the edge to the bottom, formed an angle of about forty-five degrees, and their perpendicular depth was about twelve feet. Those that contained water discovered gravel near their edges, while the empty ones were covered with grass and herbs, among which were discovered mustard and mint.

They now proceeded over a long and very uneven country, and at two in the afternoon arrived at the largest river they had seen since they left their canoe, and which forced its way between and over several huge stones that opposed its progress. This river abounds with fish, and must fall into the great river further down than they had extended their voyage.

A heavy and continued rain fell through great part of the night; and as they were, in some measure exposed to it where they rested the night, time was required to dry their cloaths, so that it was half past seven in the morning before they were ready to set out. They found the country quite destitute of game. Late in the afternoon they discovered the tops of the mountains covered with snow over very high intermediate land. They killed a whitehead and a grey eagle, and three grey partridges; they saw also two otters in the river, and several beaver lodges along it.

At an early hour in the morning, (the 10th) they prepared to cross the river on a small raft which they found there. This river was about thirty yards, and it required five trips to get them all over. About nine they reached two temporary huts that contained thirteen men, with whom they found their guide, who had preceded them in order to secure a good reception. These men called themselves Stona-cuss-Dinais, which denomination,

denomination, as far as the interpreter could explain it, was understood to mean Red-fish Men; they were much more cleanly, healthy, and agreeable in their appearance than any of the natives who had hitherto been seen. Their account of the distance to the sea varied from four to eight days journey, but all uniformly declared they had been to the coast. Latitude 53. 4. 32 N.

These people appeared to live in a state of comparative comfort; they take a greater share in the labour of the women than is common among the savage tribes, and are, as Mr. Maclauries was informed, content with one wife.

Having engaged two of these people to exercise the office of guides, they proceeded with considerable expedition till they stopped for the night, which proved most uncomfortable; they being, in the fist part of it, tormented with flies, and, in the latter deluged with rain. In the morning the weather cleared; and as soon as their cloaths were dried they proceeded through a morass, for this part of the country had been laid waste by fire, and the fallen trees added to the pain and perplexity of their way. A high rocky edge stretched along the left. At half past three they came in sight of a lake, the land, at the same time, gradually rising to a range of mountains whose tops were covered with snow. At five in the afternoon they were so wet and cold (for it had at intervals continued to rain) that they were compelled to stop for the night. They passed seven rivulets and a creek, in this day's journey, which was about fifteen miles.

Their conductors now began to complain of this mode of travelling, and mentioned their intention of leaving them, whilst the interpreters, who were equally dissatisfied, added to the perplexity of their conduct; besides which, these circumstances and the apprehension that the distance from the sea might be greater than Mr. Maclauries had imagined, it became a matter

of

of real necessity that they should begin to diminish the consumption of their provisions, and to subsist upon two thirds of their allowance, a proposition which was as unwelcome to the people as it was necessary to be put into immediate practice.

Proceeding again in the morning (the 21st) they passed two lakes, and observed several tracts leading to the water, from which they concluded that some of the natives were fishing along the banks. They afterwards reached a river, which their guides informed them was the same they had passed on a raft; at this place it was upwards of twenty yards across, and deep water. One of the guides swam over to fetch a raft which was on the opposite side, and having increased its dimensions they crossed at two trips, except four of the men who preferred swimming.

Here their conductors renewed their menace of leaving them, and Mr. Maclauries was obliged to give them several articles, and promise more, in order to induce them to continue till other natives could be procured to succeed them. At four in the afternoon they forded the same river, when their guides set off with so much speed, that Mr. Maclauries's attempt to follow them proved unsuccessful. One of the Indians, however, overtook them, when they said their only intention was to prevent the natives, whom they expected to find, from committing an act of hostility. Mr. Maclauries, and his party were, however, so fatigued at seven o'clock that they encamped without them. Mr. Maclauries endeavoured, and not in vain, to keep hope alive in the minds of those who were yet with him, though their situation afforded grounds for considerable alarm.

Surrounded as they were now with snow-clad mountains, the air became so cold that the violence of their exercise was not sufficient to produce a comfortable degree of warmth. In the course of the day they travelled at least thirty-six miles.

Shortly after they had commenced their journey the next morning, they came to the edge of a wood, where they perceived a house situated on a green spot by the side of a small river. Arriving at the house before the inhabitants perceived them, the women and children uttered the most horrid shrieks, and the only man who appeared to be with them escaped out of a back door and fled with all his speed into the wood. It is impossible to describe the distress and alarm of these poor people, who believing that they were attacked by enemies, expected an immediate massacre.

Their prisoners consisted of three women and seven children, whose apprehensions they at length contrived to dissipate. The man soon afterwards discovered himself in the wood, but it was a long time before he could be persuaded to come and accompany them. They were here informed, that from the mountains before them, covered with snow, the sea was visible. An elderly man soon afterwards made his appearance, and also a lad, who with the man first seen were sons of the old man. Latitude 52. 58. 53 N.

Four of the people who had been expected now arrived, who were of two tribes, whom Mr. Maclauries had not yet known. They all set off, entered the woods, and soon after forded a river, when they began to ascend, and continued ascending till nine at night; notwithstanding they were surrounded by mountains covered with snow they were very much tormented by musquitoes.

The next day (the 17th) they gained the summit of the mountains surrounded by snow, which had been so compact, that their feet hardly made any perceptible impression on it. They observed, however, the tracts of deer, which the Indians and the hunters immediately went in pursuit of. It soon after began to hail, snow, and rain, nor could they find any shelter but the leeward-side of a huge rock; the wind also rose into a tempest, and the weather was as distressing as any they had hitherto

thertо experienced. After the absence of an hour and an half the hunters brought a small doe, of the rein deer species, which was all they had killed though they fired twelve shots at a large herd of them.

They afterwards continued to descend until they arrived at a small stream, which they crossed, and soon became sensible of an entire change in the climate, the berries being quite ripe. The sun was about to set when their conductors went forward, leaving them to follow as well as they could, having the precaution to mark the road for them by breaking the branches of trees as they passed. They proceeded until it became so dark that they went on feeling, rather than seeing their way, until at length they arrived at a house, and soon discovered several fires in small huts, with people busily employed in cooking fish. These people received them without the least surprize; they were introduced to a large house where several of the natives were sitting, by whom they were received with great cordiality, and who presented them with some roasted salmon, and shortly afterwards with a dish of salmon roes, pounded fine, and beaten up with water so as to have the appearance of a cream; and another, where a large proportion of gooseberries, and an herb which appeared to be sorrel, were mixed with the roes. Having been thus regaled they laid themselves down to rest, upon boards placed on purpose for them, with no other canopy than the sky.

Salmon is so abundant in the river, on the banks of which these people reside, that they have a constant and plentiful supply of that beautiful fish; to take which with more facility, they had with great labour formed an embankment, across the river, for the purpose of placing their fishing machines both above and below it. Mr. Maclauries interpreted his wish to visit this extraordinary work, but these people are so superstitious that they would not allow him a nearer examination than what he could obtain by viewing it from

the bank. The weir is a work of considerable ingenuity, and stops the stream which is about fifty yards in breadth, and ten feet deep, nearly two thirds. It is constructed by fixing small trees in the bed of the river, in a slanting position, with the thick part downwards, over these is placed a bed of gravel on which is placed a range of lesser trees, and so on alternately till the work is brought to its proper height, it was then nearly four feet above the level of the water; beneath it the machines are placed into which the salmon fall when they attempt to leap over. On either side there is a large frame of timber-work, six feet above the level of the upper water, in which passages are left for salmon, leading directly into the machines, which are taken up at pleasure.

The water of this river is of the colour of asses-milk, which Mr. Maclauries attributed, in part, to the linie-stone, that in many places forms the bed of the river, but principally to the rivulets which fall from mountains of the same materials.

These people indulge an extreme superstition respecting this fish, as it is apparently their only animal food; for flesh they never taste, and one of their dogs having picked and swallowed a bone which had been left by Mr. Maclauries's party, was beaten by his master till he disgorged it. One of Mr. Maclauries's people having thrown a bone of the deer into the river, a native, who had observed the circumstance, immediately dived and brought it up, and having consigned it to the fire instantly proceeded to wash his polluted hands.

As they were still at some distance from the sea, Mr. Maclauries made application for a canoe or two, with people to conduct them thither. After receiving various excuses, he at length comprehended that the only objection was to the embarking venison in a canoe on their river, as the fish would instantly smell it and abandon them, so that they must all starve. Mr. Maclauries soon eased their apprehensions on that point,

point, and desired to know what he was to do with the venison that remained, when he was told to give it to one of the strangers who was pointed out to him, as being of a tribe that eat flesh. He now requested to be furnished with some fresh salmon in its raw state; but, instead of his wish being complied with, they brought him a couple of them roasted, observing at the same time, that the current was very strong, and would bring him to the next village, where the wants of himself and people would be abundantly supplied. In short, Mr. Maclauries and his people were to make haste to depart. This was rather unexpected after so much kindness and hospitality, but their ignorance of the language prevented them from being able to discover the cause.

At eight o'clock in the morning, fifteen men armed, the friends and relations of these people, arrived by land, in consequence of notice sent them in the night, immediately after the appearance of our guides. They were more corpulent and of a better appearance than the inhabitants of the interior.

Their dress consists of a single robe tied over the shoulders, falling down behind, to the heels, a little below the knees, with a deep fringe round the bottom. It is generally made of the bark of the cedar tree, which they prepare as fine as hemp. In addition to this robe, the women wear a close fringe hanging down before them about two feet in length, and half as wide. The colour of the eye is grey with a tinge of red. They have all high cheek bones, but the women are more remarkable for that feature than the men.

At one in the afternoon they embarked, with their small baggage, in two canoes, accompanied by seven of the natives. The stream was rapid, and ran upwards of six miles an hour. They came to a weir, such as has been already described, where the natives landed them, and shot over it without taking a drop of water. They re-embarked and proceeded at a great rate for

about two hours and a half, when they were informed that they must land, as the village was only at a short distance.

Some of the Indians ran before them, to announce their approach, when they took their bundles and followed. As they approached almost within sight of the houses, they heard much noise and confusion amongst the natives which seemed to encrease, and when they came in sight of the village, they saw them running from house to house, some armed with bows and arrows, others with spears, and many with axes, as if in a state of great alarm. This very unpleasant and unexpected circumstance, Mr. Maclauries attributed to their sudden arrival, and the very short notice of it which had been given them. At all events, he had but one line of conduct to pursue, which was to walk resolutely up to them, without manifesting any signs of apprehension at their hostile appearance. This resolution produced the desired effect, for as they approached the houses, the greater part of the people laid down their weapons, and came forward to meet them. Mr. Maclauries was, however, soon obliged to stop from the number of them that surrounded him. He shook hands, as usual, with such as were the nearest to him, when an elderly man broke through the crowd, and took him in his arms; another then came, who turned the old man away without the least ceremony, and paid him the same compliment. These embraces, which at first surprized him, he soon found to be marks of regard and friendship. The crowd pressed with so much violence and contention to get a view of them, that they could not move in any direction.

The chief now made signs for them to follow him, and he conducted them through a narrow coppice, for several hundred yards, till they came to an house built on the ground, which was of larger dimensions, and formed of better materials than any they had hitherto seen; it was the chief's residence. They no sooner arrived

rived there, than he directed mats to be spread before it, on which they were told to take their seats, when the men of the village, who came to indulge their curiosity, were ordered to keep behind them. In front other mats were placed, where the chief and his counsellors took their seats. In the intervening space, mats, which were very clean, and of a much neater workmanship than those on which they sat were also spread, and a small roasted salmon placed before each of them. When they had satisfied themselves with the fish, one of the people who came with them from the last village approached, with a kind of ladle in one hand, containing oil, and in the other something that resembled the inner rind of the cocoa-nut, but of a lighter colour, this he dipped in the oil, and, having eat it, indicated by his gestures how palatable he thought it. He then presented Mr. Maclauries with a small piece of it, which he chose to taste in its dry state, though the oil was free from any unpleasant smell. A square cake of this was next produced, when a man took it to the water near the house, and having thoroughly soaked it, he returned, and, after he had pulled it to pieces like oakum, put it into a well made trough, about three feet long, nine inches wide, and five deep; he then plentifully sprinkled it with salmon oil, and manifested by his own example that they were to eat of it. Mr. Maclauries just tasted it, and found the oil perfectly sweet, without which the other ingredient would have been very insipid. The chief partook of it with great avidity, after it had received an additional quantity of oil. This dish is considered by these people as a great delicacy; and on examination, Mr. Maclauries discovered it to consist of the inner rind of the hemlock tree, taken off early in summer, and put into a frame, which shapes it into cakes of fifteen inches long, ten broad, and half an inch thick; in which form it may be preserved for a great length of time.

In

In this situation they remained for upwards of three hours, and not one of the curious natives left them during all that time, except a party of ten or twelve of them, whom the chief ordered to go and catch fish, which they did in great abundance, with dipping nets, at the foot of the Weir.

At length they were relieved from the gazing crowd, and got a lodge erected, and covered in for their reception during the night. Mr. Maclauries now presented the young chief with a blanket, and several other articles, that appeared to be very gratifying to him. Similar articles were also distributed to others. The communication, however, was awkward and inconvenient, being carried on entirely by signs, as there was not a person present who was qualified for the office of an interpreter.

They were very desirous to get some fresh salmon, that they might dress them in their own way, but could not by any means obtain that gratification, though there were thousands of that fish strung on cords, which were fastened to stakes in the river. The natives were even averse to their approaching the spot where they clean and prepare them for their own eating. Not only this but these people had indeed taken their kettle from them, lest they should employ it in getting water from the river; and they assigned, as the reason for this precaution, that the salmon dislike the smell of iron. At the same time however, they supplied the travellers with wooden boxes, which were capable of holding any fluid.

The village consisted of four elevated houses, and seven built on the ground, besides a considerable number of other buildings or sheds, which are used only as kitchens, and places for curing their fish. The former are constructed by fixing a certain number of posts in the earth, on some of which are laid, and to others are fastened, the supporters of the floor, at about twelve feet above the surface of the ground: their length

length is from an hundred to an hundred and twenty feet, and they are about forty feet in breadth. Along the centre are built three, four, or five hearths, for the two-fold purpose of giving warmth, and dressing their fish. The whole length of the building on either side is divided by cedar planks, into partitions or apartments of seven feet square, in the front of which there are boards, about three feet wide, over which, though they are not immovably fixed, the inmates of these recesses generally pass, when they go to rest. The greater part of them are intended for that purpose, and such are covered with boards, at the height of the wall of the house, which is about seven or eight feet, and rest upon beams that stretch across the building. On those also are placed the chests which contain their provisions, utensils, and whatever they possess. The intermediate space is sufficient for domestic purposes. On poles that run along the beams, hang roasted fish, and the whole building is well covered with boards and bark, except within a few inches of the ridge pole; where open spaces are left on each side to let in light and emit the smoke. At the end of the house that fronts the river, is a narrow scaffolding, which is also ascended by a piece of timber, with steps cut in it; and at each corner of this erection there are openings, for the inhabitants to ease nature. The houses which rest on the ground are built of the same materials, and on the same plan.

When they were surrounded by the natives on their arrival, Mr. Maclauries counted sixty-five men, and several of the natives might be supposed to have been absent; he calculated, therefore, the inhabitants of this village at about two hundred souls.

Near the house of the chief Mr. Maclauries observed several oblong squares, of about twenty feet by eight. They were made of thick cedar boards, which were joined with so much neatness, that he at first thought they were one piece. They were painted with hieroglyphics,

glyphics, and figures of different animals, and with a degree of correctness that was not to be expected from such an uncultivated people. He could not learn the use of them, but they appeared to be calculated for occasional acts of devotion or sacrifice, which all these tribes perform at least twice in the year, at the spring and fall. He was confirmed in this opinion by a large building in the middle of the village, which he took for the half finished frame of an house. The ground-plot of it was fifty-feet by forty-five; each end is formed by four stout posts, fixed perpendicularly in the ground. The corner ones are plain, and support a beam of the whole length, having three intermediate props on each side, but of a larger size, and eight or nine in height. The two centre posts, at each end, are two feet and a half in diameter, and carved into human figures, supporting two ridge poles on their heads, at twelve feet from the ground. The figures at the upper part of this square represent two persons, with their hands upon their knees, as if they supported the weight with pain and difficulty: the others opposite to them stand at their ease, with their hands resting on their hips. In the area of the building there were the remains of several fires. The posts, poles, and figures, were painted red and black; but the sculpture of these people is superior to their painting.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Maclauries observed before the door of the chief's residence, four heaps of salmon, each of which consisted of between three or four hundred fish. Sixteen women were employed in cleaning and preparing them. They first separate the head from the body, the former of which they boil; they then cut the latter down the back on each side of the bone, leaving one third of the fish adhering to it, and afterwards take out the guts. The bone is roasted for immediate use, and the other parts are dressed in the same manner, but with more attention, for future provision. While they are before the fire, troughs are placed

placed under them to receive the oil. The roes are also carefully preserved, and form a favourite article of their food.

Copper and brass are in great estimation among these people, and of the former they have great plenty: they point their arrows and spears with it, and work it up into personal ornaments; such as collars, ear-rings, and bracelets, which they wear on their wrists, arms, and legs. They also abound in iron. Some of their twisted collars of that metal weighed upwards of twelve pounds. It is generally beat into bars of fourteen inches in length, and one inch three quarters wide. The brass is in thin squares: their copper is in larger pieces, and some of it appeared to be old stills cut up. They have various trinkets; but their iron is manufactured only into poniards and daggers. Some of the former have very neat handles, with a silver coin of a quarter or eighth of a dollar, fixed on the end of them. The blades of the latter are from ten to twelve inches in length, and about two inches broad at the top, from which they gradually lessen into a point.

When Mr. Maclauries produced his instruments to take an altitude, he was desired not to make use of them. He could not then discover the cause of this request, but he experienced the good effect of the apprehension which they occasioned, as it was very effectual in hastening his departure. He had applied several times to the chief to prepare canoes and people to take him and his party to the sea, but very little attention had been paid to his application till the 10th, when he was informed that a canoe was properly equipped for his voyage, and that the young chief would accompany him; he now discovered that they had entertained no personal fear of the instruments, but were apprehensive that the operation of them might frighten the salmon from that part of the river. Latitude 52. 25. 52 north.

In

In compliance to the chief's request Mr. Maclauries desired his people to take their bundles, and lay them down on the banks of the river. In the mean time he went to take the dimensions of the chief's canoe, which was built of cedar, forty-five feet long, four feet wide, and three feet and a half in depth. It was painted black and decorated with white figures of different kinds. The gunwale, fore and aft, was inlaid with the teeth of the sea-otter.

When Mr. Maclauries returned to the river, the natives who were to accompany them and his people, were already in the canoe. The latter, however, informed him, that one of their axes was missing. He immediately applied to the chief, and requested its restoration; who would not however understand him till he sat himself down on a stone, with his arms in a state of preparation, and made it appear that he should not depart till the stolen article was restored. The village was immediately in a state of uproar, and some danger was apprehended from the confusion that prevailed in it. The axe, however, which had been hidden under the chief's canoe, was soon returned.

At one in the afternoon they renewed their voyage in a large canoe with four of the natives. They found the river almost one continued rapid. In about an hour they arrived at two houses, where they were, in some degree, obliged to go on shore, as they were informed that the owner of them was a person of consideration. He indeed received and regaled them in the same manner as at the last village; and to increase his consequence, he produced many European articles, and amongst them were at least forty pounds weight of old copper stills. They made their stay as short as possible, and their host embarked with them. In a very short time they were carried by the rapidity of the current to another house of very large dimensions, which was partitioned into different apartments, and whose doors were on the side. The inhabitants received them with great kindness;

kindness; but instead of fish, they placed a long, clean, and well made trough before them full of berries. In addition to those which they had already seen, there were some black, that were larger than the huckle berry, and of a richer flavour; and others white, which resembled the blackberry in every thing but colour. Here they saw a woman with two pieces of copper in her under lip, as described by Captain Cook.

The navigation of the river now became more difficult, from the numerous channels into which it was divided, without any sensible diminution in the velocity of its current. They soon reached another house of the common size, where we were well received; but whether our guides had informed them that we were not in want of any thing, or that they were deficient in inclination, or perhaps the means, of being hospitable to us, we were not offered any refreshment, though the people in the house were in a state of busy preparation. Some of the women were employed in beating and preparing the inner rind of the cedar bark, to which they gave the appearance of flax. Others were spinning with a distaff and spindle. One of them was weaving a robe of it, intermixed with stripes of the sea-otter skin, on a frame of adequate contrivance that was placed against the side of the house. The men were fishing on the river with drag-nets between two canoes. These nets are forced by poles to the bottom, the current driving them before it; by which means the salmon coming up the river are intercepted, and give notice of their being taken by the struggles they make in the bag or sleve of the net. There are no weirs in this part of the river. The machines, therefore, are placed along the banks, and consequently these people are not so well supplied with fish as the village already described, nor do they appear to possess the same industry. They went on with great velocity till they came to a fall, where they left their canoe, and carried their luggage along a road through a wood for some hundred yards, when they

came to a village, consisting of six very large houses, erected on palisades, rising twenty-five feet from the ground, which differed in no one circumstance from those already described, but the height of their elevation. They contained only four men and their families. These people do not seem to enjoy the abundance of their neighbours, as the men who returned from fishing had no more than five salmon; they refused to sell one of them, but gave Mr. Maclauries one roasted of a very indifferent kind. From these houses might be perceived the termination of the river, and its discharge into a narrow arm of the sea. The course of the river is about west, and the distance from the great village upwards of thirty-six miles. There they lost their dog, a circumstance of no small regret to Mr. Maclauries.

They rose at a very early hour in the morning of the 20th; Mr. Maclauries proposed to the Indians to run down their canoe, or procure another at this place. To both these proposals they turned a deaf ear, as they imagined that he would be satisfied with having come in sight of the sea. Two of them peremptorily refused to proceed; but the other two having consented to continue, they obtained a larger canoe than their former one, and though it was in a leaky state they were glad to possess it.

About eight they got out of the river which discharges itself by various channels into an arm of the sea. The tide was out, and had left a large space covered with sea-weed. The surrounding hills were involved in a fog. The wind was at west, which was a-head of them, and very strong; the bay appearing to be from one to three miles in breadth. As they advanced along the land they saw a great number of sea-otters. They fired a great many shots at them, but without any success from the rapidity with which they plunged under the water. They also saw many small porpoises or divers. The white-headed sort, which is common in the interior parts; some small gulls,

gulls, a dark bird which is inferior in size to the gull, and a few small ducks, were all the birds which presented themselves to their view.

At two in the afternoon the swell was so high, and the wind, which was against them, so boisterous, that they could not proceed with their leaky vessel, they therefore landed in a small cove on the right side of the bay. Opposite to them appeared another small bay, in the mouth of which is an island, and where, according to the information of the Indians, a river discharges itself that abounds in salmon.

The young Indians now discovered a very evident disposition to leave them; and, in the evening, one of them made his escape. Mr. Macklay, however, with the other, pursued and brought him back; and as it was by no means necessary to detain him, particularly as provisions did not abound with them, Mr. Maclauries gave him a small portion, with a pair of shoes, which were necessary for his journey, and a silk handkerchief, telling him at the same time, that he might go and inform his friends, that they should also return in three nights. He accordingly left them, and his companion, the young chief went with him.

When they landed, the tide was going out, and at a quarter past four it was ebb, the water having fallen in that short period eleven feet and a half.

When it was dark the young chief returned, bearing a large porcupine on his back. He first cut the animal open, and having disencumbered it of the entrails, threw them into the sea; he then singed its skin, and boiled it in separate pieces, as their kettle was not sufficiently capacious to contain the whole: nor did he go to rest, till, with the assistance of two of the people who happened to be awake, every morsel of it was devoured.

Their stock of provisions was, at this time, reduced to twenty pounds weight of pemmican, fifteen pounds of

rice, and six pounds of flour, among ten half-starved men, in a very leaky vessel, and on a barbarous coast.

At forty minutes past four, the next morning, it was low water, which made fifteen feet perpendicular height below the high water mark of last night. At six they were upon the water, when they cleared the small bay, which they named Porcupine Cove, and steered West-South-West for seven miles; they then opened a channel about two miles and an half wide at South-South-West, and had a view of ten miles into it. Mr. Maclauries could not ascertain the distance from the open sea, and being uncertain whether they were in a bay or among inlets and chanels of islands, he confined his search to a proper place for taking an observation.

Under the land they met three canoes, with fifteen men in them, and laden with their moveables, as if proceding to a new situation, or returning to a former one. It did not appear that they were the same people as those lately seen, as they spoke the language of the young chief, with a different accent. They then examined every thing we had in our canoe, with an air of indifference and disdain. One of them made Mr. Maclauries understand, with an air of insolence, that a large canoe had lately been in this bay, with people in her like them, and that one of them, whom he called *Macubah*, had fired on this man and his friends, and that *Bensis* had struck him on the back, with his hind open. From his conduct and appearance, Mr. Maclauries wished to get rid of him, and flattered himself that he would go on in another direction from his course. Before they parted, they attempted to decoy Mr. Maclauries's young men; but not effecting that purpose, they put about their course and went off.

They coasted along the land named by Vancouver King's Island, and from the people they met, understood white people had shot at them: this gave Mr. Maclauries much uneasiness. At this place he took the altitude by an artificial horizon, which gave 52. 20. 48 North latitude. Tired

Tired with the fatigues and hardships they had undergone, the company began to murmur against their conductors, and proceeded so far as to declare they would pass the mountains, notwithstanding the snows that covered them, enforcing this resolution, by throwing every thing they had about them in the river, but their blankets. Mr. Maclauries and the other travellers remonstrated with them; and though they seemed persuaded at the time of the impropriety of their conduct, the guide set off the next morning with their canoe; but they were however so fortunate as to engage another with a guide and one of their natives without much difficulty; and this they were obliged to do, as the strength of the current was too much for them without such assistance.

On the 25th they landed amidst a thick underwood, which they penetrated till they came to two deserted houses, which stood upon posts. Here their curiosity to enter these was severely punished, for strange to tell, the floors were covered with fleas, and they were immediately in the same condition, for which they had no remedy but to take to the water. There was not a spot round these erections, free from grass, that was not, as it were, alive with this vermin.

They passed very quietly on to the end of the 26th, when they arrived at the spot which they had formerly called the Friendly Village; here they found five additional erected, well filled with salmon, and a proportional increase of inhabitants. Also they found a long lost friend in their dog, which joined the party, but he seemed rather wild, and to have lost his sagacity. The poor animal was nearly reduced to a skeleton, but, by degrees, as he picked up his food, he recovered his former docility.

Their visit did not interrupt in the least the ordinary occupations of these people, and when the chief, whose name was Soocombie, heard of their arrival, he directly left his employment at the river where he was salmon catching,

catching, and came in the most friendly manner to receive them. These people go quite naked; their traffic is intirely in the necessaries of life, which they pack up in portable chests of cedar. This tree is here in great abundance, growing to twenty-four feet-circumference, and rising forty feet before they spread in branches.

Their houshold furniture is neat, made of cedar, as well as their boat, which carry from ten to fifty persons. They burn their dead, and display their grief, by cutting their hair and sooting their faces. They have no notion of navigation beyond their own river. Their chief is arbitrary, and cultivation of the soil is not here in the least understood.

They left this place the last day of July, 1793, in the morning, accompanied by the chief and most of the village, whose attention was too great to pass unnoticed by them. At the distance of about a league, they stopped to divide their provisions, and part with their friends. The scene that occupied their attention afterwards was too mild and magnificent for them to describe. The astonishing and awful combination of objects, surpassed description, and the weather being fine, aided by the thoughts of returning home, sweetened their labour. The latitude was this day 52. 46. 31. They continued their route with fine weather without any interruption, until two in the afternoon of Sunday, August 4th, when they arrived at the place they had left a month before. The people were out a fishing, who, when they returned, shewed demonstrations of joy. Upon examining the canoe they had left behind, they found it in perfect safety, nor was there the print of a foot near it: their pemmican also was safe and good. At noon, Mr. Maclauries took an altitude 0. 1. 11. which gave 53. 14. 10.

On Tuesday, the 6th, Mr. Maclauries exchanged some large knives for beaver skins, and now an extraordinary circumstance came to light, many of their utensils were missing, which astonished the travellers to think

think of the simplicity of these people, who, while they might have taken all the property left in their reach, should, without the least fear of detection, take only that which must be soon missed; but as Mr. Maclauries did not think fit to quarrel with them, he only mildly represented to them the impolicy of their conduct towards him, observing, that as the sources of their subsistence was the sea, whence the salmon, their chief food, came from, and which they knew belonged to the white men, their fishing might be rendered fruitless, by stopping the fish from coming up the rivers. This reasoning had the desired effect, and, in less than three hours, the articles were all produced from behind a lodge.

They purchased here a fresh supply of fine salmon, and on Wednesday the 7th, departed at nine in the morning, the weather being very fine, and continued their route all the 8th and 9th, during which last day they had much rain, which compelled them to land, and make a fire to dry themselves. A great deal of water fell all the way till the 14th of August, when they arrived safe at the fort from whence they had originally set out, without meeting with any other remarkable event in the course of the voyage.

FINIS.

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